

No resumption of Iraqi oil exports — MEES

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq's proposal to resume oil exports, under embargo since its invasion of Kuwait two years ago, has no chance of getting off the ground, the oil industry newsletter Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday. It said speculation that the proposal, which sent oil prices 15 to 20 cents lower on Thursday, would lead to a resumption in exports "has no discernible foundation in reality."

Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf said Thursday Iraq would comply with U.N. conditions if the value of exports was raised to \$4 billion from \$1.6 billion proposed by the United Nations. MEES said Iraq's new proposal was conceived in response to a U.S.-led campaign in the Security Council to use part of Baghdad's frozen assets overseas to fund U.N. Operations and humanitarian relief work in Iraq. "Washington is obviously in no mood to amend the original terms of the U.N. plan for Iraqi oil exports... to give the (Iraqi) regime a breathing space just when sanctions are beginning to bite. It is a hard and credible threat to the Iraqi leader's authority," MEES said.

Jordan Times

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Iraqi, Turkish and Syrian officials discuss water

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian, Iraqi and Turkish experts opened talks in Damascus Monday on sharing of regional water resources, officials and diplomats said. They said some officials whose talks would centre on technical details would travel to northern Syria to inspect the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Both rivers rise in Turkey and flow to Syria and Iraq. The five-day meeting, agreed on during a visit to Damascus last month by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, is the first of its kind since March 1990. Syria and Iraq were angered when Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said on the eve of the opening of the giant Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates in July that Iraq and Syria had no right to question Turkey's claim to the river. But Mr. Cetin confirmed to Syrian officials during his Damascus visit Turkey would continue to honour a water-sharing agreement signed in 1987 under which Turkey would allow the flow of 500 cubic metres per second of water from the Euphrates to Syria.

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Education panel meets

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday chaired a meeting of the Council of Higher Education which discussed a report by a committee entrusted with drawing up a plan to develop higher education in Jordan. Prince Hassan said at the meeting that higher education in Jordan still had shortcomings that need to be addressed and should be taken into consideration. Prince Hassan said one of the issues that should be tackled is ways to upgrade the educational levels of graduates and to relate scientific research at universities with the country's economic and social needs.

Sharif Zaid reviews cancer centre project

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Monday chaired a meeting of the national team entrusted with the establishment of Al Amal Cancer Centre held at the premises of the General Union for Voluntary Societies (GUVS). Sharif Zaid called for launching campaigns to spread awareness among the public of cancer. The prime minister stressed the need for creating a fund to finance the treatment of poor cancer patients and called for training and preparing qualified medical cadres to deal with cancer in the best manner. He also commended efforts exerted to establish Al Amal Cancer Centre, which, he said, could be considered a nucleus for establishing similar private-sector organisations that can offer treatment for cancer patients.

Peace delegation reports no progress

AMMAN (Petra) — Member of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks Fayez Al Tarawneh said Monday that no change was witnessed in Israel's stands despite high expectations on the Arab side. Dr. Tarawneh, who returned home Monday evening along with several members of the delegation following the end of the sixth round of bilateral talks, said some changes were witnessed in the stand of the Israeli delegation but none of them was substantial. He said the Jordanian and Israeli sides did not reach a joint agenda for negotiations because the Jordanian side was sticking to its position on issues to be listed on its agenda.

Jordan, Lebanon open trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Lebanese Economic and Trade Committee met Monday at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The several-day meeting is designed to enhance bilateral economic and trade relations. The committee will discuss issues pertaining to preparing lists of commodities exchanged between the two countries, holding industrial fairs in the two countries, increasing the volume of trade and renewing a trade agreement signed between the two countries in 1965. The Jordanian side to the meetings is headed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Amin Awad while the Lebanese side is headed by Director General of the Ministry of National Economy Nu'man Abu Shaqra.

Yemen, Saudi officials discuss dispute

SANAA (R) — Yemeni and Saudi Arabian officials were to hold talks in Riyadh Monday on a dispute over an oil-rich border region. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh told a news conference Sunday the talks would be held between teams of experts from both countries and that his country was keen to solve the dispute in a "friendly way." Yemeni and Saudi officials held what they called a preparatory meeting in Geneva in July, the first between the two countries on the long-standing border dispute which flared up anew earlier this year. Yemen has said Saudi claims that the oil-rich areas of Hadramout, Ma'arib and Al Jawf were part of its territory made it necessary to discuss the border issue as soon as possible.

Syria restates demand for total Israeli pullout

Egypt assails Israel's 'divide-and-conquer' plan

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Syria Monday told the world community that if Israel wants a comprehensive peace agreement, it must completely withdraw from the Golan Heights and all other Arab lands it still occupies. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharras told the General Assembly that Damascus seeks "a peace in which not a grain of our sand is lost."

Israelis "are greatly mistaken" if they believe that peace can be achieved without "complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories," Mr. Sharras said in his speech.

Syria wants Israel to promise a withdrawal from all lands it occupied in the 1967 war before Syria will describe its vision of peace. Israel wants the peace of mind, open borders, embassies and flags in each other's capitals, trade and tourism. In return, Israeli officials have suggested, Israel would agree to a partial withdrawal from the Golan or some form of interim arrangement such as leasing the land from Syria.

Mr. Sharras also called for arms

control agreements to be monitored and enforced equitably, so that the nuclear arsenal that Israel is believed to have would be eliminated along with all other atomic, chemical and biological weapons in the Middle East.

"Syria wants all mass destruction weapons out of the Middle East," Mr. Sharras said.

Israelis and Arabs concluded a sixth round of peace talks in Washington on Thursday, but neither side appeared ready for significant concessions.

Negotiators agreed to convene a seventh round on Oct. 21 in Washington.

On the plus side, Israel and Syria worked together on a joint statement defining the principles of their talks, and Israel and the Palestinians began work on an agreement granting self-government to the Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

On the minus side, negotiations with Syria appeared stuck on the same dispute that has bedeviled them from the start. Israel wants to know what kind of peace Syria will offer in return for an Israeli withdrawal from the

Golan Heights.

Egypt said Monday that Israel was trying to divide the Arabs by making peace with one country at the expense of others. A top Egyptian official called such behaviour shameful.

The attack by Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's chief political aide, obviously targeted peace talks in Washington.

In speaking to reporters, Dr. Baz noted "talk about an Israeli intention to move ahead in negotiations with one Arab party and to slow down progress with the others. We find that shameful of Israel. There must be simultaneous movement on all fronts."

Mr. Baz said recently the U.S.-sponsored talks create "a dangerous link" by bringing together delegations of all Arab countries negotiating with the Jewish state. Mr. Baz, who has long pushed for direct talks with Syrian leaders, said: "This (Washington) formula is not ideal."

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U.N. starts regional initiative on Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations began a regional drive Monday to stop Somalia's anarchy, civil war and famine undermining neighbouring states.

The U.N.'s special representative for Somalia, Mohammed Salim Ahmed Samatar, said Monday that his country is awash with hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees.

Aides said they discussed the seizure of a Kenyan military helicopter last week by one of Somalia's fiercest warlords.

"The government has asked Salimoun to talk to Aided about the Kenya position and expects results very soon," an aide said.

Fighters loyal to General Mohammed Farah Aided, who accuses Kenya of supporting his rivals, forced the helicopter down near his southwestern base of Bardera and are holding the three crew.

Gen. Aided's United Somali Congress (USC) said Sunday it had captured the helicopter deep inside Somali territory. It said the crew were being interrogated.

Analysts said the bizarre incident illustrated the danger of other countries being dragged into Somalia's chaos. Months of fighting have seen the country carved up into tribal fiefdoms

loosely ruled by armed gangs.

Mr. Moi said the helicopter ran out of fuel after straying into Somali airspace in bad weather. He denied allegations it had attacked Bardera.

He urged Gen. Aided's men to "consider the overall assistance Kenya has given to the Somali people and to reciprocate accordingly instead of turning us and abusing our country."

Mr. Salimoun and Mr. Moi also discussed prospects for bringing Somalia's warring clans together in Kenya, Kenyan sources said.

The U.N. envoy later flew on to Ethiopia and Sudan to discuss peace initiatives and plans to feed millions of starving people.

Gen. Aided and self-declared Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, Somalia's most powerful warlords, have so far refused to meet or to attend talks outside their ruined country.

The U.N. initiative has assumed greater urgency because of concern for some 400,000 Somali refugees in Kenya.

Mr. Moi's government, accusing Somalis of ingratitude and of responsibility for an upsurge in violent crime, has threatened to send them home.

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Iraqi dissident groups say they agree to join forces

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi opposition groups have agreed to join forces to overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

A statement issued at the end of an unprecedented three-day meeting of Iraqi opposition groups said they agreed to "close ranks and consolidate the Iraqi opposition to speed up achieving their aim to topple the totalitarian regime and establish a multiparty and parliamentary rule."

Reflecting Iraq's ethnic and religious mix, the groups who met in the northern Iraqi town of Salahuddin included Sunni and Shiite Muslim Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans and Assyrians, as well as Communists, socialists and rebel Baathists.

It was the first such meeting on Iraqi soil.

The statement said the opposition groups would meet again in northern Iraq at the end of October. Opposition sources said they would hold more talks on establishing a provisional government, a national assembly and a unified opposition leadership.

The statement said delegates stressed their determination to preserve the unity of Iraq following local fears that a Western "no-fly" zone over the south would lead to the country's disintegration.

It urged the West to provide safe havens similar to those in northern Iraq, to protect civilians in other areas of the country, and called on the people of southern Iraq to fill what it called the "imminent political vacuum resulting from the no-fly zone."

The opposition groups also called on the Iraqi people and armed forces to join them in trying to topple President Saddam.

Experts inspect sites

Experts tracking chemical weapons in Iraq said they found none during site visits Monday but that the Iraqis could have moved them to a U.N. designated area.

U.N. chief inspector Bernhard Brunner of Switzerland spent 11 hours in the West's air exclusion zone in northern Iraq.

He refused to say where exactly the team visited but added that no chemical weapons were found at the two sites.

"That means that they either have been destroyed or transported to Muthana," he said, declining to say whether he would visit Muthana again to double check.

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Soldiers fire tear-gas at Gaza school

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Dozens of Palestinian schoolgirls were treated for tear-gas inhalation Monday after Israeli soldiers fired the gas at a school in the occupied Gaza Strip, Arab reporters and hospital officials said.

Fifty-seven students and teachers were treated for inhalation problems at Khan Youssef Nasser hospital and released, hospital officials said.

The soldiers apparently thought students were involved in a nationalist demonstration at the middle and secondary public school in Abbas Al Kabirah, Arab reports said.

Arab reporters quoted school administrators as saying there was no stone-throwing, fire burning or demonstrations by masked activists at the school.

The army said it could not confirm the incident.

Elsewhere in the occupied territories, the army said Palestinian prisoners began a hunger strike in two Nabulus prisons.

A Palestinian human rights group said the prisoners were protesting harsh conditions and alleged torture in the jails.

A group of women, family members of the prisoners, began a sit-in strike Monday at the Red Crescent offices in Nabulus to show solidarity with the hunger strikers, Arab reports said.

Two Palestinian groups said two Palestinian leaders were being tortured in Israeli jails and their lives were in danger.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in a statement PFLP members Ahmad Suleiman Katamash and Ahmad Abdul Rasul had suffered "systematic torture" since their capture earlier this month.

The PFLP and DFLP said the Israeli government had been "escalating a repressive campaign against our people and prisoners despite its claims that it wants to make peace."

"The Israeli campaign has resulted in the killing of several of the strugglers and threatened the lives of others including strugglers Ahmad Suleiman Katamash and Ahmad Suleiman Katamash who have been subjected since their arrest to systematic torture."

The groups appealed to international and human rights organisations to intervene.

The Israeli army said on Sept. 17 it had detained Katamash, who it said was the local commander of the PFLP, and Rasul, who had been wanted since January for attacks on Israelis.

Arafat expected in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is expected to arrive here Tuesday to personally congratulate His Majesty King Hussein over the successful surgery he underwent last month and his return home after recuperation, informed sources said.

According to the sources, Mr. Arafat had planned to be in Amman immediately after the King's return Thursday but changed his plans.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is also expected to review with the King the Middle East peace process and related issues, the sources told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Arafat held similar talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Sunday (see story below).

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Arafat sent a message of congratulations and good wishes to the King Monday.

The cable, according to Petra, said:

"In my name and on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee and the Palestinian people, I congratulate you and the people of Jordan on your safe return and your resumption of the march at the head of the Jordanian people towards further progress and prosperity."

"I seize this opportunity to reaffirm our keen interest in pursuing endeavours towards stronger ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and to serve the Arab Nation's interests by struggling to liberate the Holy City of Jerusalem."

King Hussein also received a cable of good wishes from Major General Naim Al Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan.

"It is a great honour for me and my colleagues to congratulate you on the success of the operation and your safe return home," the cable said.

"Your resolve and determination serve as an inspiration for the Jordanian and Palestinian people in their continued steadfastness and struggle."

The cable said King Hussein "stands out as a symbol and a leader loved by both the Jordanian and Palestinian people" alike because he has spent "his entire life serving the Arab Nation."

Cables of good wishes also came to the King from Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid and Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

UAE reportedly demanding Iran relinquish Abu Musa and Tunbs

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held a fresh session of talks Monday on three disputed Gulf islands.

But the session ended with neither side commenting on the outcome.

The UAE, according to the official Emirates News Agency (WAM), presented at a morning session a memorandum on its point of view.

Diplomats said the Iranian delegation spent about an hour at the Iranian embassy for consultations with Tehran before the talks resumed.

The closed door talks began Sunday night at the presidential palace over control of the strategic islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs, which

lie at the entrance to the Gulf.

Sources close to the talks said the Iranian delegates were only authorised to discuss issues related to Abu Musa, whose effective annexation by Iran last March triggered a crisis that rocked Arab-Iranian relations.

The UAE's memorandum demands that Iran also withdraw from the Greater and Lesser Tunbs that the former shah of Iran seized in 1971.

It was not immediately clear whether Tehran had agreed to discuss the Tunbs when the talks resumed after a six-hour break.

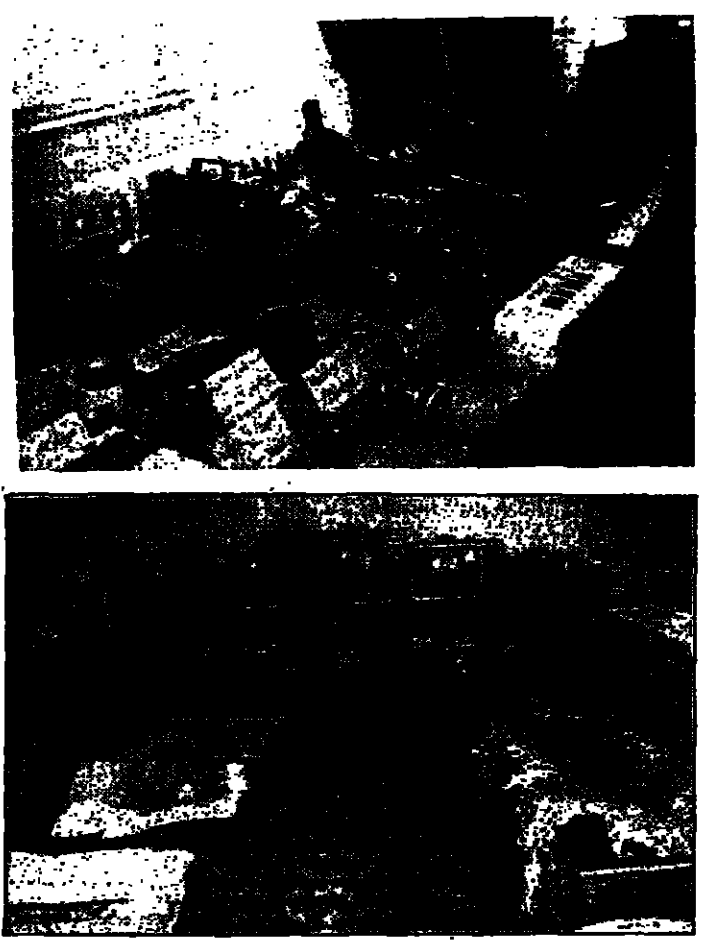
The UAE was no longer satisfied with the return of the status quo on Abu Musa where Iran has imposed security measures that drove away many islanders, the sources said.

Iran refuses to discuss Tunbs

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran said Monday it refused to discuss two disputed Gulf islands with the United Arab Emirates and rejected any challenge to its claim to sovereignty over them. Mustafa Haeri-Foumani, Iran's chief delegate to two days of talks with UAE officials in Abu Dhabi, told reporters his country would not enter any talks on the Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

It considered the time was ripe for Iran's Islamic leaders to withdraw from the islands.

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Part of the stolen goods and weapons police seized from a gang on display at Amman police headquarters (photos by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Police unveil 'panorama of crime'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police Monday announced the arrest of an 11-member family of siblings, their spouses and close relatives accused of committing a series of murders and armed robberies which terrorised several areas in Amman and northern towns over the past three years.

Police chief Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid also said several other murder cases, including a multiple killing of an entire family in Zarqa last month, were solved and most suspects were under detention awaiting trial.

Gen. Fheid, briefing reporters in what he described as a periodic "face-to-face encounter" with the press, declined to confirm or deny whether suspects were arrested in the April murders of a

six-member family in Jabal Hussein.

He would only say that police investigations into the case "are moving in the right direction."

Gen. Fheid, director-general of the Public Security Department (PSD), credited a special unit of the department for busting the 11-member gang — eight males and three females — accused of killing five people in the process of committing 134 robberies in Amman, Irbid, Ajloun, Jerash and Fheid. One of the killed was a Sri Lankan maid.

"It was a big challenge to us to arrest the group," said Gen. Fheid. "It was a well-organised group, eluding police detection by using all kinds of subterfuge and tricks."

A report presented by the police chief — a "panorama of crime" as he described it — portrayed a picture of a family of brothers, sisters, their spouses and three relatives thriving on burglaries and fraud and leading a normal life on the surface.

Moving houses regularly to selected isolated areas and changing the colour of their cars were some of the means adopted by the group to avoid detection, according to the report, which accused the suspects of violating almost every law of the country.

"Common financial interests bound the group together without the risk of one betraying another," commented Gen. Fheid.

A huge cache of arms and ammunition — dozens of pistols, several machine-guns and bullets — and stolen money (in several currencies) — and goods discovered with the gang — videos, television sets, radios, cameras,

jewelry, watches, pens, computers, carpets, musical instruments, cutlery, video and audio cassette tapes and clothes — was shown to the press at a spacious hall at the headquarters of Amman police.

"It is only a small part of the actual loot," commented Brigadier-General Ghalib Al Zoubi, chief of police of the capital.

Also on display were several identity cards which police said were forged, cheque books, and for a change, a genuine land-registration certificate for a plot of land, where, according to Brig.-Gen. Zoubi, the "family wanted to build four villas from the proceeds of crime."

The certificate, related to a 23-dunum area in the Ghazieh near

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Kuwait's first post-war election is most political ever

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press
KUWAIT — Campaigning in Kuwait's first post-Gulf war elections reached a fevered pitch Sunday with just a week left before the country returns to the parliamentary system of government suspended by the ruling Al Sabah family in 1986.

The seven-month Iraqi occupation that ended in February 1991 rewrote the election formula, especially since the war failed to dissuade Iraq from claiming Kuwait.

"People are unsettled. After the invasion, after the liberation, there are many changes. In the 1985 elections you could predict pretty much what would happen. There were no new faces, no stormy issues," said Dr. Mohammad Al Muhanna, a campaign manager.

The days when an old family name and a big nighty banner guaranteed a seat are gone. The war brought out younger candidates determined to use the full powers of the 50-seat parliament to review government decisions. Voters ask more questions.

"They want the parliament to be a good watchdog," said candidate and former parliament member Abbas Al Khodary.

The 25 election districts erupt from 6 p.m. to well past midnight with 292 candidates speaking in massive curbside tents decorated with enough lights to illuminate a small city.

Loudspeakers and closed-circuit televisions boom for crowds spilling onto rugs, benches or plush couches outside.

Opposition godfather Ahmad Al Khatib drew one of the largest campaign crowds yet when over 5,000 people turned up to hear him attack the government for fleeing on the invasion morning.

Security is the main issue. Other central concerns linked to security include safeguarding overseas investments shrunk from \$100 billion to \$40 billion, the economy, the multilevel citizenship laws, reviewing government chaos during the invasion and women's rights. Bread and butter issues like housing and education are also raised occasionally.

"Species are the first victim of any Kuwait election," said political science professor Abdullah Shayeji. Up to 4,000 people packed the emirate's first ever political debates to be organized to try to get detailed programmes.

But few candidates venture into specifics out of fear of alienating even a few voters in districts ranging from 900 to the largest at 7,130. Out of the Kuwaiti population of 650,000, only the 81,440 men over age 21 who can trace their ancestry here to 1920 can vote.

Women are disgruntled that their prominent role in the wartime resistance did not translate into voting rights. More candidates have separate tents for women in accordance with Islamic customs and attendance is up.

The seven main opposition groups ranging from westernised technocrats to Islamic fundamentalists attempted to act like political parties, which are banned, they had limited success in working together to try to beat pro-government candidates.

No-one will predict the results due within 24 hours after the polls close at 8 p.m. (1700 GMT) Oct. 5.

Analysts are unclear, for example, if the emotional appeal of Islam will help religious candidates capture more than the nine seats they held in the last parliament, or if Muslim Brotherhood support elsewhere in the Arab World for Iraq will wound them.

Independents include the first Shiite Muslim ever to run as a cleric, Al Sayid Hussein Al Ghalib spent eight years studying Islamic law at Qom, Iran, the heart of its Islamic revolution. He denies any similar aim. But motorist heads' spin when they pass billboards featuring his picture in full garb, including a black turban marking him as a descendant of the Prophet Mohammad.

Overshadowing the race is how committed the Al Sabahs are to democracy. The first indication is expected to be the number of ministers chosen from parliament members in a new government due by mid-October.

Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah suspended parliament in 1986 when it began aggressively questioning royal ministers. New elections were only promised at an October 1990 conference on national unity in Saudi Arabia while the country was occupied.

There are questions about vote buying and Al Sabah financial backing for pliable candidates, especially when poor tribal leaders mount expensive campaigns.

"It's fishy. We know that these sheikhs have their favourite bedouin groups," said Ali Al Beidh, chairman of the Friends of Democracy Committee, a watchdog group.

The Al Sabahs, along with the military, cannot vote. Royal ministers claim neutrality, but have criticised candidates of lying.

"All people are allowed to speak freely without fear of being questioned," Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Sabah told the local press. He has said previously that his men would monitor speeches to ensure that no-one insulted Kuwait's Arab allies.

The campaign attracts citizens from around the Gulf. Only Yemen has real elections scheduled later this year. The rest, including giant Saudi Arabia, have at most announced plans for powerless consultative councils and are believed edgy that the Kuwait election might lead to pressures for greater participation.

Most of Kuwait's 400,000-strong Palestinian community left Kuwait after the Gulf war. Many were laid off in retaliation for their perceived support of the Iraqis.

Mr. Lavoyer estimated that officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were visiting \$800 to 900 civilians held in Kuwait since its liberation in February last year. Many were suspected of having collaborated with Iraqis.

These people, who do not have the protection of an embassy in Kuwait, were mainly Iraqis, Palestinians and stateless Arabs, Mr. Lavoyer said. There were also Sudanese and Yemenis.

Mr. Lavoyer said the 15 Swiss ICRC officials based in Kuwait had immediate access to all detention centres in the country.

Facts and figures

THE FOLLOWING is a summary of Kuwait's Oct. 5 parliamentary elections.

The voters: Out of the Kuwaiti population of 650,000, voters are limited to the 81,440 men over age 21 who can trace their ancestry to the families that rebuilt the city-state's mud brick walls in 1921. Those barred from voting include women, the 1,000 or so members of the ruling Al Sabah family, the military and anyone whose family moved here after the 1920s.

Election day: Polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the 25 districts. Results are expected within 24 hours after the polls shut. Simple majority required to win.

The issues: Security is a main concern. Kuwait has signed 10-year defence cooperation agreements with the United States, Britain and France, but voters want to know what happens after that. A strong, watchdog parliament is often seen as a bulwark against another invasion, as Iraq claimed in August 1990 to be liberating the emirate from a repressive government. Other concerns include shrinking overseas investments, the economy, the complicated citizenship laws and women's rights.

Political groups: Political parties are banned. But the seven main opposition groups act like parties in all but name. They are Western-educated technocrats gathered in the Kuwaiti Democratic Forum; back-to-basics Muslims known as the Salafin; the Muslim Brotherhood group called the Islamic Constitutional Movement; the Shiite Muslim group; businessmen backed by the chamber of commerce; former parliament members and independents.

The political system: Under the constitution drawn up in 1962 the 50-seat parliament has two members from each constituency has the power to approve all treaties and major government contracts. Government ministers are automatically made members of parliament. Major laws require a two-thirds majority to pass, but it takes just 10 members to call in a minister for a confidence review. Ruling Al Sabah emirs have used their power to suspend a rancorous parliament in 1967, 1976 and the last time in 1986.

The package is part of a \$700 million military aid programme promised as a reward to Israeli neutrality in the Gulf war. Despite 39 Iraqi Scud attacks, Israel did not retaliate because of American fears such action could undercut the Arab coalition it put together against Iraq.

The package is in addition to the \$1.8 billion in military assistance and \$1.1 billion in economic assistance that Israel receives each year as America's largest foreign aid recipient.

The timing was expected to help win Israeli neutrality in the Bush administration's proposal to sell 72 F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia. The Jewish state has, in the past, vehemently opposed arms sales to Arab states.

In an interview Sunday, Israel's chief of staff, Ehud Barak, told army radio that he viewed the Saudi sale as "very grave."

But he added that the U.S. equipment for Israel "will strengthen Israel's ability to stand tests, if and when it is needed."

Syrian newspaper condemns U.S. military aid to Israel

DAMASCUS (AP) — A government newspaper Monday condemned the U.S. decision to give Apache and Blackhawk helicopters to Israel and argued the military aid could heighten the explosive tensions in the region.

The government-owned daily Tishrin said the aid was part of a long-standing Western policy to heap the most sophisticated military technology onto Israel's arsenal.

But the newspaper argued that the policy "in the post cold war stage is bereft of any justification and will likely turn out to be an explosive element in the region and will add a new block that will complicate the peace process."

The United States announced Saturday that it was sending an unspecified number of the helicopters to Israel to help it maintain its "qualitative military edge." The White House also announced it was increasing the "stockpile" of U.S. military equipment "pre-positioned in Israel."

"Ironically, the continuous campaigns announcing Western aid to Israel coincide with counter campaigns against any Arab effort to achieve a balance in the conflict with the Israeli enemy," Tishrin said.

It accused the West of applying a double standard and asked whether military superiority "is exclusively for Israel and the legitimate right of other countries to self-defence is an unpardonable crime?"

The newspaper also questioned the wisdom of sending more arms to the Middle East at a time when both sides are attempting to negotiate a peace settlement.

No figures of the proposed helicopter supply were given in Washington, but the Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth said 24 Apache attack helicopters and 10 Blackhawk transport helicopters were involved.

In addition, some \$200 million worth of U.S. equipment is to be "pre-positioned" in Israel, including anti-tank missiles, "smart bombs," artillery shells and anti-missile Patriots, Israel Radio reported.

Some \$100 million worth of equipment already in Israel, most from U.S. military bases being dismantled in Europe, and Israeli military officials said Israel would have the right to dip into the stockpile if necessary.

Mr. Rabin held meetings with Education Minister Shulamit Aloni and Aryeh Deri, whose orthodox Shas Party had threatened to leave the government unless Ms. Aloni was removed. Ms. Aloni's Meretz bloc said, in turn, that it would withdraw backing if she was fired.

The prime minister said Ms. Aloni blamed several controversial remarks on "slips of the tongue," and one colleague said she agreed to be more careful. Mr. Deri indicated his party's chief rabbi would likely accept that explanation — at least for now.

Mr. Rabin said on Israel Radio that he told Ms. Aloni whose comments on religion, the Holocaust and peace-making have upset many Israelis — that she would have to consider the implications of her statements.

"I made it clear that we cannot continue to maintain the present coalition if the phenomenon of Shulamit Aloni statements will be continued," he said.

Political violence threatens Yemen's democracy

By Eric Watkins
The Associated Press

SANAA — A wave of political violence rippling through this fledgling republic has endangered its attempt to forge a democratic system in a region not known for political reform.

It is not yet clear if Yemen's first multi-party parliamentary elections will go ahead in November as required by the May 1990 agreement that merged the conservative Islamic North Yemen with Marxist South Yemen.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh recently approved a 17-member multi-party committee to supervise the balloting. But violence targeting the upper echelons of government has cast uncertainty over the process and no election date has been announced.

Under the merger agreement, elections were to be held after a 30-month transitional period that ends Nov. 21.

The speaker of the transitional parliament, Yassine Saeed No-man, himself the target of an assassination attempt in August, remains hopeful Yemen will be able to ride out the unrest.

"Yemenis have tried dreadful alternatives before and have learned they were not appropriate," he said, referring to the traditional bloodletting that scarred Yemen before the merger.

Two weeks ago, the tide turned. Northern political leaders became the main target.

vinced of the necessity to resolve its problems through peaceful and democratic ways," Mr. No-man asserted.

Others are more pessimistic. "We face a dark future," said Abdullah Al Huraibi of the General Peoples Congress, the party that ruled the North until the merger and is now a partner with the South's Yemen Socialist Party in nursing the new state through its infancy.

"Safety, security, corruption — these are the matters that worry us. But from the head of the state downward, all disclaim responsibility," he said.

Bomb, rocket and gun attacks — mostly unsuccessful — have been made on the prime minister, the justice minister and at least two members of the five-member presidential council led by Mr. Saleh.

Most attacks have been against members of the Yemen Socialist Party that ruled former South Yemen. Because of that the violence is widely seen as a conspiracy against the socialists by opponents that include the North's Islamic fundamentalist Al Islah Party.

But Al Islah's leader, Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hussein Al Ahmar, suggests the socialists are purging their own ranks.

Two weeks ago, the tide turned. Northern political leaders became the main target.

Used as pawns by rebels and government forces in a nine-year war of attrition, some 4.5 million southern Sudanese, 75 per cent of the south's population, have been driven from their homes.

Hunger and disease have killed at least 500,000, relief workers say.

Relief workers in the Kenyan capital Nairobi say both the government and rebels have used food as a weapon to further their strategic aims and the welfare of the civilian population has been a secondary priority.

They pointed out that the Biarritz was held up for a month at the government-controlled town of Malakal before being allowed to sail to the rebel-held town further up the river.

Relief officials also say that up to half the food sent into famine areas is stolen and often finds its way to the hands of rebel and government troops.

The SPLA is fighting to end what it says a domination of the black and mainly-Christian South by the Arabised Muslim north.

But the Islamic fundamentalist-backed Khartoum government shows no signs of softening its stand after recapturing large areas from the rebels earlier this year.

Peace talks in June failed to halt the government's dry season offensive which captured 14 towns and villages.

The SPLA has been weakened by a factional split within its ranks and the loss of military support from Ethiopia and logistical aid from Kenya and Uganda.

Rebel leaders say they are about to heal the split in the SPLA. The faction led by John Garang, founder of the SPLA, says it is stepping up its onslaught against government forces in Juba.

Ali Salem Al Beidh, the South's former strongman and secretary-general of the Yemen Socialist Party, last week demanded a dialogue between the two main parties to safeguard democracy.

His aides warned violence might prompt a slowdown or withdrawal by the 20 or so foreign oil companies operating in Yemen. But oil executives say their operations are not affected.

Even before violence broke out, the infant republic was facing major challenges.

Long one of the poorest Arab regions, it was grappling with an economic crisis brought on by the expulsion of nearly one million Yemeni workers from Saudi Arabia, which cut off remittances worth \$300 million a year.

Angered at Yemen's perceived pro-Iraq stand during the 1990 Gulf crisis, Saudi Arabia also halted millions of dollars in subsidies to Sanaa. So did the United States.

The Yemenis condemned the invasion of Kuwait, but refused to join the anti-Iraq coalition. The neutral stand cost it an estimated \$2 billion.

Many Arabs are surprised that Yemen's new-found unity has survived this long, given the traditional North-South rivalries and age-old squabbling between the northern tribes.

But more than 40 new parties have formed since the merger, to compete for 301 seats in parliament. The press is now probably one of the freest in the Arab World.

The moves towards pluralism lend credibility to Yemen's efforts to transform itself into a fully democratic state, a development that the peninsular monarchies, notably neighbouring Saudi Arabia, view with some trepidation.

Some Yemenis blame the Saudis, who have a long history of buying off the northern tribes, for the current unrest.

The Saudis deny that, but have in recent months reignited an old border dispute that could stunt Yemen's efforts to develop its new-found oil wealth.



Ali Abdullah Saleh

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Barge gives new lease of life to Sudan town

NASIR, Sudan (R) — For the destitute people of Nasir, a remote Sudanese town ravaged by hunger, disease and war, the sight of an approaching barge was a new lease of life.

Children greeted the U.N. steamer, loaded with 240 tonnes of sorghum, with applause and singing Saturday. The barge Biarritz was the first on the River Sobat in nine months.

Hundreds of women danced and ululated. A few men joined in the jubilation, while hundreds more emerged from thatched huts to watch with silent but obvious relief.

"This is a big day for the people of Nasir," said Christina Colbert, a worker with the World Food Programme (WFP). "People are happy because they have not seen a steamer in a long time."

Nasir, once lush with sorghum, is now a wasteland. For the destitute people of Nasir, a remote Sudanese town ravaged by hunger, disease and war, the sight of an approaching barge was a new lease of life.

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3 sentenced to death in southwestern Sudan

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A criminal court in southwestern Sudan has sentenced three Sudanese to death by hanging after finding them guilty of instigating war against the government and illegal possession of arms, a newspaper reported Monday.

Al Inzak Al Watany said that Judge Mohammad Abdullah Ibrahim ruled Saturday that Al Bashir Rahama Obeid, Al Hadi Jar Al Najm and Zannoun Al Tignay be hanged to death. He also sentenced the third to be crucified after hanging.

Two other defendants were sentenced to up to 14 years in prison and fined 250,000 Sudanese pounds (\$2,500) each and an extra six years in jail if they cannot pay the fine.

The newspaper did not give any further details about the case or the charges. The same court in Al Daien in Darfur region, 840 kilometres southwest of Khartoum, last month acquitted former Foreign Minister Sidahmad Al Hussein and others for lack of evidence. The defendants were charged with recruiting people for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) who have waged a civil war against the

army in south Sudan for the past nine years.

The newspaper said the court ordered the arms and ammunition found with the convicted persons to be handed over to the army. The sentences will be sent to high court for approval, the newspaper said.

Last week, the American administration expressed outrage over the execution of a Sudanese man who was an employee of the U.S. foreign aid agency after being found guilty of treason by a military court. The Americans fear a second Sudanese employee of the U.S. agency might also have been executed, and say a number of others have been detained by authorities.

Sudan's rebel leader John Garang held secret talks over the weekend with Nigerian mediators in the country's civil war ahead of proposed peace talks next month, Ugandan government sources said Monday.

The sources said the talks held Sunday at State House in Entebbe, President Yoweri Museveni's official residence, 32 kilometres west of Kampala, dealt with the question of resuming peace talks between two factions of the SPLA and the Khartoum government.

ICRC concerned by expulsions

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Red Cross official expressed concern Sunday about Kuwait's expulsions of bedouins (stateless Arabs) and Palestinians to Iraq and said they caused much suffering.

"The ICRC feels uneasy about the fact that long-term residents of Kuwait — people who were often born here — are forced to leave for Iraq," Jean-Philippe Lavoyer, the ICRC's acting head of delegation for the Arabian Peninsula, said.

"Our concern also is about Palestinians with Egyptian laissez-passer (travel documents). The reason is that many of these people can only go to Iraq because they cannot go to other places," Mr. Lavoyer, who is based in Kuwait, told Reuters.

"We have a humanitarian concern because this attitude creates a lot of suffering," he said in an interview.

Mr. Lavoyer, whose delegation covers the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Yemen, said many were expelled without trial on suspicion of collaborating with Iraqi troops during Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate in 1990-91.

Kuwaiti officials were not available for comment.

Officials have said in the past that those asked to leave do not have residence permits. If they go to Iraq it is because no other country will take them.

Mr. Lavoyer could not estimate the number of expulsions and he did not know how those forced to leave were treated in Iraq. But he said it would be difficult for many bedouins to find work there, especially under United Nations sanctions.

Most of Kuwait's 400,000-strong Palestinian community left Kuwait after the Gulf war. Many were laid off in retaliation for their perceived support of the Iraqis.

Mr. Lavoyer estimated that officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were visiting \$800 to 900 civilians held in Kuwait since its liberation in February last year. Many were suspected of having collaborated with Iraqis.

These people, who do not have the protection of an embassy in Kuwait, were mainly Iraqis, Palestinians and stateless Arabs, Mr. Lavoyer said. There were also Sudanese and Yemenis.

Mr. Lavoyer said the 15 Swiss ICRC officials based in Kuwait had immediate access to all detention centres in the country.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 731119

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Aventures de Joe
18:10 Documentary
18:30 Marc & Sophie
19:00 News in French
19:15 Les Beaux Moments Du Cirque
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Acropolis Now
21:00 Mr. Bean
21:30 Tox
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Act of Love"

PRAYER TIMES

05:04 Fajr
06:22 Sunrise (Shams) Doha
12:27 Dhuhr
15:53 Asr
18:33 Maghrib
19:50 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 610740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

TERMINAL CHURCH

Tel. 622366

CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Tel. 623541

ANGELUS CHURCH

Tel. 630511

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tel. 711331

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tel. 72261

ST. EUGENIUS CHURCH

Tel. 717751

ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Tel. 685266

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tel. 811285

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Tel. 654932

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Tel. 675591

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King offers condolences to Bahraini leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, to offer his condolences over the death of Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa.

Sharif Zaid meets with Sheikh Nouh

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Monday visited the Chief Justice office where he met with Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Nouh Salhan. Sharif Zaid inspected the work process at the office and was briefed by Mr. Salhan on the office's role and future plans. The meeting was attended by several senior Islamic judges at the office.

Lawzi receives AI delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi received in his office Monday a visiting delegation representing Amnesty International (AI). The meeting discussed Jordan's democratic experiment, particularly after the enactment of the political parties law. Discussion at the meeting also centred on political pluralism, public freedoms and human rights.

Arab doctors to discuss setting up AIDS centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Doctors Federation (ADF) will participate in the meetings of a committee entrusted with setting up a centre for combating AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). The meetings are due to open in Libya next Saturday. Federation Secretary General Hassan Khreis said the centre will be established in Libya, as part of the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's human rights award activities. The meetings, he said, will discuss practical ways for establishing the centre, which will conduct studies on AIDS in Africa. The federation will also take part in the meetings of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Mediterranean Regional Committee due to start in Alexandria, Egypt, Oct. 3. Dr. Khreis said the federation will participate in the meetings as an observer. Participants in the five-day meetings, he said, will discuss reports on WHO activities in the region as well as ways of promoting cooperation between the organisation and the Council of Arab Health Ministers.

Meeting to discuss agricultural policy

AMMAN (Petra) — The fourth annual meeting between Jordanian agricultural organisations and the International Centre for Agricultural Researches in Dry Areas (ICARDA) will open Tuesday at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture. Participants in the two-day meeting, which will be opened by Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh, will include specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Centre for Agricultural Researches and Technology Transfer, the faculties of agriculture at the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) as well as several of ICARDA's researchers. The meeting will discuss results reached during the last agricultural season, drawing up cooperation plans for the coming agricultural season and defining scopes of cooperation in the field of producing certain crops.

8 killed, 193 injured in car accident

AMMAN (Petra) — Eight people were killed and 193 others were injured in 373 car accidents which took place in Jordan last week, according to a report issued by the Public Security Traffic Department.

Israel's nuclear arsenal threatens security — Sharif

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif said Monday that Jordan's stability and moderate policies are conducive to promoting the cause of stability and peace in the Middle East.

In an address to a visiting group from the British War College, the minister said that the numerous challenges that faced the country since its independence from Britain did not deter it from pursuing the goods of stability and security.

"On the contrary, these challenges prompted the country to work harder and to prove to be an oasis of security and stability and a model for other countries in the region," said Mr. Sharif. Mr. Sharif referred to the democratic process in the Kingdom, describing democracy as the

"sole option for Jordan at this stage which witnesses an ongoing effort designed to attain peace and end the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The minister said that Jordan wants to see the Middle East an arms-free zone, maintaining, however, that it was unfair to see nuclear weapons under Israel's disposal while the Arabs are deprived of the right to possess similar weapons.

Such situation, he said, can only create an imbalance of power and can endanger the region's security.

The minister and members of the delegation held a general discussion on the peace process. Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Palestine issue and the Gulf war as well as the Kingdom's relations with other countries in the region.

Kabariti, Japanese envoy visit vocational training centre

ZARQA (I.T.) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama Monday visited Yajouz Vocational Training Centre and discussed Jordanian-Japanese cooperation in the field of vocational training.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra said that the ambassador offered to send to Jordan a number of Japanese instructors to teach in the country's vocational training centers. He also expressed willingness to offer training in Japan to technicians from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), which runs the vocational centres in Jordan.

The minister accompanied the ambassador on a tour of the different sections of the centre, which was built on 17 dunums of land at the cost of JD 2.2 million.

The minister said that the centre annually offers training to 600 students in 16 different professions.

Mr. Nonoyama was briefed on the work of the different sections as well as the centre's needs for expansion and development.

The ambassador was accompanied also to a vocational centre for females and was briefed on the training courses it offers to

students.

Mr. Kabariti said in a statement to Petra later that the Ministry of Labour has plans for establishing a vocational training centre to train students in metal moulding. He said that the project to be set up in cooperation with the Netherlands, was expected to cost JD 18 million.

Also on Monday, the General Assembly of a Japanese-Jordanian joint company entrusted with setting up a fertiliser plant in Aqaba, held its first meeting in Amman to discuss plans.

Thabet Taher, director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) chaired the meeting during which assembly members reviewed practical steps to bring the company into being.

The company, which would produce phosphate-based fertilisers, is expected to cost \$60 million and produce at least 300,000 tonnes of fertilisers a year.

Agreement on the creation of the joint company was signed in Amman last July by JPMC and a delegation from Japan led by the chairman and president of the National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Association

(Zen-Noh).

Businessman sees potential for joint Jordanian-French industrial ventures

AMMAN (I.T.) — France is interested in launching joint economic ventures with Jordan because the Kingdom possesses the necessary infrastructure for industrial growth and skilled labour, according to the President of the Arab-French Chamber of Commerce Michel-Habib Deloncle.

The availability of trained and qualified workers who can employ modern technology in industry can help create the necessary base for joint French-Jordanian industries, an objective sought by the Arab-French Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Deloncle said at a press conference held Sunday evening at the French Ambassador's residence in Amman.

He said the possibility exists for joint French-Jordanian industrial ventures to flourish since the manufactured goods can be marketed in France and the Arab countries. Such commodities

would be cheap to buy and most importantly they would be of very high quality, competing with similar products in the market, Mr. Deloncle said. He said joint economic ventures of this nature are bound to adjust Jordan's trade balance.

Mr. Deloncle is in Jordan for a series of meetings with Jordanian businessmen to promote trade exchanges between Jordan and France.

When united, the European Community countries will have a total of 350 million inhabitants who depend on free trade and free enterprise, thus opening the door wide for increased investments in Third World countries, including those of the Mediterranean region, said Mr. Deloncle.

The French businessman said that France will play a leading role in the coming phase of trade relations between Europe and the countries of the southern hemisphere.

Referring to his mission in Jordan, Mr. Deloncle said that it was within the course of his current endeavours to seek cooperation with Jordanian businessmen in general and Jordanian industry in particular.

"We are here to exchange views with Jordanian businessmen and the talks so far have yielded good results in that both sides acquired tremendous information related to trade and industry," said Mr. Deloncle.

He said that pharmaceutical and food industries will be the target of joint French-Jordanian ventures that could be established in the Kingdom.

Referring to France's dealings with Iraq, Mr. Deloncle said that French companies are currently conducting contacts and negotiations with Iraq to resume their activities and trade relations with that Arab country once the sanc-

tions have been lifted. Iraq is indebted by 15 billion French francs to Paris and the two countries had large trade and economic ties, he said.

"The settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the reconstruction of Lebanon and the reestablishment of peace in Yugoslavia are very positive elements that can contribute towards the development of countries around the Mediterranean sea," Mr. Deloncle added.

Mr. Deloncle had earlier held a series of meetings with members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce and government officials to discuss bilateral trade and economic projects.

The Arab-French Chamber of Commerce, which was founded in 1970 upon an initiative by Arab ambassadors in Paris, conducts promotion campaigns to encourage trade exchanges between France and the Arab World.

CBJ to introduce new banknotes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) will put into circulation new banknotes of the JD 10 and JD 5 bills as of Oct. 1, according to an announcement Monday.

The new banknotes like those of the JD 20, JD 1 and JD 0.500 which were introduced at the beginning of last month, will have new designs. The old banknotes will continue to be valid and accepted by the banks until they are all phased out, the CBJ said.

The JD 10 bill will be a mixture of colours but mainly blue, and will be decorated with Islamic designs and the Amman Citadel, according to the statement.

It said that the JD 5 bill will be of difficult blended colours but mainly red and will feature images of Petra and its treasury.

In addition, the statement said the two bills will carry the picture of His Majesty King Hussein with an Arab style head dress plus another water picture of the King.

The phrase, "The Central Bank of Jordan, will appear on the bills along with the value of the bill and its serial number, signed by the finance minister and the Central Bank of Jordan governor.

JTA encourages businesses to increase trade activities in Russia

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Russian markets hold huge potentials for Jordanian manufactured products and here are good opportunities for launching joint Jordanian-Russian ventures, according to Jordanian businessmen who held an exhibition of Jordanian products in Moscow this month.

The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) organised a week-long industrial fair in the Russian capital on Sept. 15, offering Russian consumers "high quality" industrial products manufactured by 21 Jordanian companies, according to Kamal Qaqish, JTA vice president.

Addressing a press conference in Amman Monday following the end of the fair in Moscow, Mr. Qaqish said good investment opportunities exist for Jordanian industries in Moscow and other parts of Russia. He said there is also a "good opportunity for launching joint ventures with Russian businessmen."

"Thanks to the close cooperation between the private and public sectors in Jordan, the Moscow fair was successful," Mr. Qaqish added.

The fair was held by JTA in cooperation with the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JED-

CO) at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Mr. Qaqish said that Jordanian businessmen displayed a wide range of products which, among other things, included wooden furniture, scent, medicines, points, electric appliances, tissue paper, gas ranges, syringes, chemical detergents, soap, hair shampoo, car filters, and batteries, perambulators, ladders, heaters and refrigerators.

"Russian merchants and businessmen showed deep interest in the high quality of Jordanian products and expressed willingness to buy from Jordan," said Mr. Qaqish.

He said that the JTA, which was established in 1988, aims at promoting the sale of Jordanian products in other countries and opening new markets.

The JTA has appointed representatives in Moscow and Sudan, two countries where Jordan held industrial fairs to coordinate work. Mr. Qaqish said that the JTA was complementing the work of JEDCO, which has opened the way for JTA to set up a permanent trade exhibition in the Russian capital.

Another speaker at the press conference was Mr. Fawaz Al

Shaaln, JTA secretary, who said that 1,000 Russian companies contacted the Jordanian businessmen at the fair to conduct deals.

"Russia has 150 million consumers who are interested in Jordan's products," Mr. Shaaln said.

He said that the Russian private sector is anxious to conclude deals with Jordanian industries and establish joint ventures with Jordan. He said this provides a "good opportunity for Jordan's trade, especially as Russia is now following the market economy system."

Makram Qubain, JTA board member, told the press conference that Jordanian and Russian businessmen held a series of meetings to discuss trade and signed minutes of their deliberations which, among other things, enabled initial agreement for establishing joint Russian-Jordanian industrial projects.

Mr. Qubain said that some difficulties still exist in the payment arrangements but, he said, these can be overcome through barter trading between the two sides saying that Jordan was interested in purchasing Russian timber in exchange for manufactured products.

Political parties consolidate in bid to gain more power

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Less than a week before the registration of political parties begins, dozens of political groups are considering mergers and coalitions. Fearing that the small membership they have attracted thus far would not allow them to meet some of the registration requirements, political groupings are scurrying to form coalitions with like-minded groups.

Oct. 1 will mark the opening of the registration period for political parties by special department set up at the Ministry of Interior, Salameh Hamad, under-secretary of the Ministry of Interior, told the Jordan Times.

The political parties law, which was passed by a Royal Decree Sept. 1, has set very specific regulations for a party's registration and legalisation. Each party must have minimum of 50 founding members.

Long established political groups, like the leftist Jordan People's Democratic Party and the Muslim Brotherhood's Party — Islamic Action Party — are finalising their registration requirements. Others, however, who are relative newcomers to the political scene in Jordan, are still establishing their cadre and trying to get the largest number of people possible into their ranks in order to secure themselves of sufficient political clout and popular support.

With up to 100 groups fielding themselves as future parties in the pre-registration period, and coalitions representing all shades of political thought have been emerging on the Jordanian political scene.

In the fall of last year, a group of 70 "political personalities" formed a National Consolidation Committee, which aimed at forging mergers among centrist parties with similar ideologies.

Thus far, the committee has been successful in helping the merger of three political groups which loosely define themselves as liberal, pan-Arab and national parties.

Known as the Ahrar (liberal), the Wafai (the national) and the Mustakbal (the future), the three parties joined together to form the Mustakbal last week in an unprecedented merger among centrist groups.

A spokesman for the group, Sami Gammo, said that he expects several other political groups and parties to join the

Mustakbal Party within the next two weeks.

The parties which are considering a merger or a coalition with Al Mustakbal are also liberal centrist parties.

Still, final alliances have not yet been drawn. While none of the existing and evolving parties have made political, social or economic programmes available to the press, different political shades among the left, centre and right are discernable.

Consultations on the possibility of merger are underway among four liberal parties; the Unionist Liberals, headed by Anis Musasher, Democratic Unionist Association, headed by Mohammad Oran, the Arab Unionist, led by Talal Al Omani, and the Democratic Forum, led by Ali Amer.

While similar in their approach, the latter grouping consider themselves to be more like the "Social Democrats" of Germany than a typical "centrist" party.

Should the four groups, led by Unionist Liberals, merge, they "may" consider forming a wider coalition with Al Mustakbal, Anis Musasher told the Jordan Times.

Other liberal and left-of-centre parties, such as the Jordanian National Democrats, which has a revolving leadership consisting of Dr. Huda Fakhourey, Mazen Saket, Mohammad Daudieh and Samir Habeshneh, are also being approached for possible mergers with the Al Mustakbal and Mr. Musasher's group.

"In all likelihood, if we form a coalition with anyone in the future, it will more likely be with the unionist parties or with the existing coalition formed by Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Association (JAN-DA)," Dr. Huda Fakhourey told the Jordan Times.

"Our own programmes have not been fully formulated. Therefore we will not consider any mergers and coalitions before our own house is in order," added Dr. Fakhourey.

JANDA

JANDA is a coalition of four major parties, which includes two socialist parties: the Communist Party and one Arab Baath Socialist faction. As one of the first coalition of political groups in the Kingdom, JANDA which was formed in July 1990, represents political parties which worked

underground before the multi-party system was restored in Jordan. It is mostly leftist in its political orientation.

Joining the Jordan People's Democratic Party, the Jordan Popular Unity Party, the two branches of the Jordanian Communist Party and the Al Baath Arab Socialist Party, the coalition has formed a solid bloc. Each of the four parties has one deputy in the Lower House of Parliament with the exception of the Baath Party, which has two.

Along with independent members, JANDA has formed an eight-member bloc in the Lower House known as the Democratic Bloc.

The process of merging political groups, no matter how similar in ideology is "more difficult than the peace talks," said Mr. Gammo, who was one of the founders of the National Consolidation Bloc.

A coalition to the right of centre has been in the making since retired brigadier general Abdul Hadi Majali formed the Abd (covenant) party in 1991. Established by a group of businessmen and former high ranking army and government officials, the party is expected to be the leader of the "right-of-centre" political groupings in the Kingdom.

There are ongoing deliberations on creating a coalition that includes a series of tribal-based groups, some of which have already declared themselves a party. The Jordanian Greens Party, led by journalist Sultan Hat-tab is expected to have links with the Al Abd-led coalition as well. Lower House deputy Ahmad Awaidi Abadi, who is planning to head a party called Al Umma (the Nation), has said that he is interested in an alliance with the conservative parties, but Al Abd has not indicated any links with the Al Umma.

Tribal-based groups and parties, such as the recently formed Jordan National Alliance, which is led by central bedouin tribe leader Mijhem Khreishah, are also nationalist and conservative.

Most regional and tribal groupings or parties are expected to be right of centre in their political alliance and thus are candidates for a coalition with Al Abd.

Islamists

The only Islamic Party that has announced its formation thus far is the Islamic Action Party. Founded largely by members of the Muslim Brotherhood group as well as other Islamists, the party, say its organisers, will not replace the Brotherhood as a movement but will concentrate on the political aspects of Islamic policies.

Headed by Isah Farhan, the party is likely to attract the votes that went to the Brotherhood during the 1989 elections.

The Brotherhood, says member Ziad Abu Ghamma, is a group that concerns itself with "all aspects of life and thus cannot call itself a political party."

The Islamic Action Front is, for all practical purposes, the political party of the Brotherhood movement.

Only one other strictly Islamic group has announced its intention to become a party. The Tajdid Arab Islamic Party, or Islamic Arab Renewal Party, led by Ghazi Hussein, is expected to announce its formation before the end of the year.

Independents

Among the several independent parties that have sprung up is the Party for Progress and Justice, led by former chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh. The party, which has many former government officials and influential businessmen among its ranks, is expected to carry considerable financial and political clout even though it is expected to be an elitist party in its initial stages. Many political observers point to the party membership and believe it may have one of the strongest economic programmes due to the intimate knowledge the members have of Jordan's economic and political status quo.

An Arab "nationalist" party, founded by former Baathists Walid Abdul Hadi and Husni Shabab, is also expected to be influential among Jordan's middle class and intelligencia. So is the case with a party that when formed, will be led by human rights lawyer Asma Khader. The party intends to base its programme on human rights.

Political organisers expect that independent parties will not join the already existing coalitions on the right, left and centre but may support certain politicians in areas where they themselves will field no candidates in legislative, municipal and labour elections.



THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY



THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

EGYPTIAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY/JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY
ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN EGYPT AND JORDAN

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR ISSUE OF TENDERS FOR TABA 500/400/220/22kv
SUBSTATION & AQABA 400/132/33 kv SUBSTATION

Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority declare that the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan obtained a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing of the project for interconnection of their electrical networks and the Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority intend to use part of this loan for financing of supply and installation of the substations for which this advertisement is made for the issuance of the tender documents which include two separate tenders on turnkey basis as follows:

1. Tender No. JE66/90 including the following:
 - Engineering, Design, CIF delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of SF6 Metalclad Switchgear (proposal 1) or Conventional switchgear (proposal 2) for Taba Substation) and Ancillary Equipment complete with Civil Works and fire fighting system for Transformers and Shunt Reactors for TABA 500/400/220/22 kv Substation and AQABA 400/132/33 kv Substation.
 - Engineering, Design, CIF delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Three Cable Terminal Stations (Two 500 kv on Suez Canal Shores and one 400 kv on Aqaba Gulf Shore) complete with Ancillary Equipment.
2. Tender No. JE 07/90 including the following:
 - Engineering, Design, CIF delivery, Unloading, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Two Power transformers one 750 M.V.A 500/400/22 kv, one 500 M.V.A 500/220/22 kv and two Shunt Reactors one 100MVAR 500 kv and one 100 MVAR 400 kv for TABA Substation and one Power Transformer 240MVA 400/132/33 kv and one Shunt Reactor 100 MVAR 400 kv for AQABA Substation.

The tenderer is requested to nominate his subcontractors for civil and erection works which should be local companies registered according to Laws.

Tenders are to be submitted to each of Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority and each tender is to be in two envelopes: One envelope for the Technical Offer and the other for the Financial Offer and to be submitted at the same time. The Financial Offer should include a Bid Bond not less than 2 per cent of the total tender price. Submission of tenders should not be later than 12 o'clock noon Cairo time and its equal time in Amman on January 14th, 1993.

Tenderers can submit their offers for work in both Egypt and Jordan or in any of them only, or for all the tenders together or for any of them only.

Tenders can be obtained from the offices of Egyptian Electricity Authority or the offices of Jordan Electricity Authority against a receipt for payment or an acceptable cheque for value of US\$2000 for Tender No. JE 6/90, and US\$1000 for Tender No. JE 7/90 as follows:

1. For Egyptian Electricity Authority to their Account No. 880/90/14 in Egyptian National Bank main branch and to accompany the cheque with a purchase order-original stamped and two copies in the name of the Engineer-General Manager of the Central Purchasing in the building of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.
2. For Jordan Electricity Authority by cash payment in its Headquarters or a certified cheque in the name of Jordan Electricity Authority and submission of purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment.

The purchase order should clearly include the Bidder's name, his local agent and address, telex, fax and telephone number.

In case the tenderer requires the tender documents to be sent to him by mail, the express airmail cost will be added. Both offers (Technical & Financial) for these tenders will be opened at 12 o'clock noon Cairo time and its equal time in Amman on January 14th, 1993 in both Cairo and Amman. The tenders should be valid for 150 days from date of opening the tenders. Tenderer is requested to submit any question in writing or by cable to reach the Egyptian Electricity Authority and Jordan Electricity Authority not later than one month before the closing date and a pre-tender meeting to clarify all queries regarding these tenders will be held in the Headquarters of Egyptian Electricity Authority at a time to be notified later.

Johnnie Ito

'Panorama of crime' unveiled

(Continued from page 1)

Maftaq, provided a clue to the identity of the suspects — a family which lives at Tawahin Al Adwan between Zarqa and Jerash — but the name cannot be published under law.

According to Gen. Fheid, investigators reached the gang after sifting through certain "trademarks, styles and modus operandi" in dozens of crimes committed in the past three years.

Gen. Fheid did not say when the group was arrested but affirmed that intensive investigations into the cases were conducted in the past 10 weeks.

Police reported in June the arrest of several people from the group near Zarqa after a high-speed land and air chase involving helicopters and a shootout and pitched battle in which several police officers were injured. It was not immediately clear whether all the gang members were arrested at the time or some of them were caught later on.

Charges levelled against the group in a total of 230 cases include premeditated murder, kidnapping (no detail of this charge was immediately available), armed robbery, possession of weapons, forgery and use of forged documents and attack of police officers — enough and more for the accused to be sentenced to death if not several life terms in prison if convicted.

Gen. Fheid said the Aug. 28 murder of a family in Zarqa was cracked open in "record time" and investigations to the case also led to solving a 1976 murder case. He did not give details.

Similarly two other murder cases were solved with all suspects except one under custody.

Asked to comment on widespread "rumours" that arrests had been made of suspected assailants of the Karam family in Jabal Hussein in April this year and that the Iraqi government was not cooperating with Jordan on investigations related to the case, Gen. Fheid said: "I can categorically state that the second part of the rumours is not true at all."

"As to the first part (arrests), all I can tell you is that 'maybe yes, maybe no'," he said. "Our investigations are moving in the right direction."

The "rumours" say that the multiple slayings came in revenge

for the "betrayal" by Karam family members who, the assailants believed, had informed on Palestinian "collaborators" with Iraqis in Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

The "information" was allegedly given to Kuwaitis after the liberation of the emirate in February last year and led to the torture and killing of Palestinians by armed Kuwaiti gangs, according to the "rumours." Evidence — writings on the wall, literally — at the scene of the Jabal Hussein killing contributed to this theory, sources have said.

Gen. Fheid confirmed that police patrolling of Amman streets had been stepped in recent weeks, but said there was no specific reason that prompted it except as a routine measure.

"As the events of last week proved (when hundreds of people opened fire in the air to celebrate the return home of His Majesty King Hussein), everyone in this country seems to possess a gun," Gen. Fheid said. "We would like to know how many of them are licensed and ask those who own unlicensed guns to register them."

"We are not going to punish (those with unlicensed weapons)," he added.

"Similarly we also find that there are many stolen vehicles on the road and we would like to check that," he said.

On the general security situation and in an apparent reference to recent cases, Gen. Fheid said: "Democracy is not simply the freedoms that go with it. It has certain responsibilities and protecting national security is one of them."

"We have been patient for a very long time and when some people crossed the red mark we could not take it any longer."

Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

Somalia plunged into anarchy 20 months ago after Gen. Aideded and Mr. Ali Mahdi helped oust dictator Mohammad Siad Barre and then turned on each other in clan-based bloodletting.

A 500-strong U.N. force is in Mogadishu to guard relief convoys and aid workers. Plans to deploy a further 3,000 have been bitterly opposed by Gen. Aideded.

Syria reaffirms its demand

(Continued from page 1)

The possibility prompted Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said a peace treaty between Israel and Syria would not compromise the Palestinians' push for independence.

"We cannot prevent anyone from making peace with the others," Mr. Arafat told the Associated Press last week in Tunisia. "But it will not solve the problem or make stability in the area."

Dr. Baz's comments followed a meeting with Palestinian officials who accompanied Mr. Arafat on a weekend visit to Cairo. Mr. Arafat met with Mr. Mubarak Sunday to discuss the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Rabin said Monday peace between Israel and Syria was in the hands of Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio Syria had to agree to talks at the highest level but said an imminent summit with the Syrian president was unlikely.

"With Syria, I don't believe we'll reach a solution without the

involvement of the highest political echelons. Without this... I do not see how it can be made clear to the Israeli public and the Syrian public that Assad wants peace," he said.

"The key is in the hands of the Syrians, because Israel was never opposed to contacts at the highest political levels."

Asked if he planned to meet with the Syrian leader in the coming months, Mr. Rabin said: "I can't say at this moment, based on what I know, that this is a realistic possibility."

Mr. Rabin said Mr. Al Sharaa's statement in New York last week expressing his government's readiness "for total peace, for total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories" was ambiguous.

"In the expression total peace for total withdrawal there is no certainty that it doesn't refer to the whole of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"In other words in this definition they include the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and for this reason there is a danger of linkage," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio.

UAE wants Iran to leave islands

(Continued from page 1)

draw from the Tums, one of the last remaining imperial legacies of the ousted Shah, they added.

Iran had so far insisted that Abu Musa was the only item on the table and played down the dispute.

But if the talks failed to make headway, the UAE would raise the issue at the U.N. when its foreign minister makes his annual address to the General Assembly on Sept. 30, they added.

A commentary in Arabic on Tehran Radio before the talks started stressed that the talks were about Abu Musa.

Apparently appealing to the UAE not to raise the Tums issue, it said tackling the dispute in direct talks between the two countries that "confined the problem within its original limits" would "help ease fears and cool artificial crises."

Tehran, which has long accused Washington of mischief-making and trying to isolate it in the Gulf, says the dispute was fanned by the United States and its Western allies in a bid to

maintain their military presence in the region.

The UAE submitted its case on the three islands in a 1980 memorandum to the U.N. and would seek to rally world opinion behind it in the face of what it sees as Iran's strong-arm tactics in Abu Musa, the sources said.

The conflict erupted six months ago when Iran expelled a few dozen foreigners who operated essential services for the UAE government, effectively forcing many islanders to move to the mainland for lack of health, educational and other services.

Iraq rebels

(Continued from page 1)

Muthana, 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, is the designated site for the delicate task of neutralising Iraq's stockpile of chemical weapons under the Gulf war ceasefire.

The two sites inspected Monday are among the spots where Iraq is known to have stored the weapons in the past.

Hungarian hero helped kill last tsar, Austrian says

By Jonathan Lynn
Reuter

VIENNA — A new biography of Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, says one of his communist murderers was the hero of Hungary's 1956 anti-Soviet uprising, Imre Nagy.

If the claim in the book — written by Austrian historian Elisabeth Heresch and published on Sept. 9 — is true, it would be one of the bitterest ironies of 20th century history.

Nicholas, who abdicated in 1917, was shot with his wife, children and attendants by their Bolshevik captors in July 1918 in the Ipatiev villa in Ekaterinburg as anti-revolutionary white Russian troops approached the city.

Imre Nagy, a senior communist in Hungary, led a reform-minded government after Stalin's death.

He was toppled by conservative forces, but during the abortive 1956 anti-Soviet uprising again led a multi-party government which tried to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact.

Nagy was eventually kidnapped by pro-Soviet forces, taken to Romania, tried secretly, and executed in 1958.

For many Hungarians he remained a symbol of resistance to Soviet and communist power.

His reburial in a hero's grave on June 16, 1989, the anniversary of his execution, was a major turning point in Hungary's transition to pluralist democracy from communism.

But the name Imre Nagy appears on a Cheka security police list reproduced by Heresch of 11 names of those participating in the "special commando" of the first Kamishlov regiment in the Ipatiev villa on July 18, 1918.

Ms. Heresch said it contained several non-Russian names because some Russians had been unwilling to fire on the imperial family.

The Bolsheviks had therefore chosen some prisoners of war from Austria-Hungary, who had become communists and joined the Red Army, to take part in the execution squad.

Nagy is a common Hungarian surname and Imre is also a frequent forename.

but Ms. Heresch is sure it is the

Hungarian hero.

"I checked in his biography where he was at the time," she told Reuters after a presentation of the book a day before publication.

Ms. Heresch said Nagy was born in 1898, became a Russian prisoner of war in World War I, then became a communist and joined the Red Army.

In July 1918 he was stationed with the first Kamishlov regiment in Ekaterinburg, she said.

For Ms. Heresch, the real villain of the piece is Germany's last kaiser, Wilhelm II. The kaiser, fearful of Russia's growing economic and political power, tried to influence Nicholas from his accession in 1894.

Later, during World War I, when Germany and Russia were on opposing sides, he tried to destabilise Russia.

The German decision to send Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin to Russia in a sealed train in 1917 to help bring down the provisional government, still fighting the war, is well known.

But Ms. Heresch documents how the kaiser's government provided the Bolsheviks with at least 100 million gold marks — one billion marks (\$712.5 million) in today's money.

She also argues that Wilhelm was indirectly responsible for the tsar's murder.

The Germans put pressure on the Bolsheviks to bring the tsar back to Moscow, because Berlin felt Lenin's position was weakening and, in the event of a restoration of the monarchy, wanted Nicholas's signature on the treaty of Brest-Litovsk which had ended the war between Germany and Russia.

This pressure prompted the Bolsheviks, with Lenin's agreement, to kill the imperial family, she said.

Nicholas and Alexandra Romanov surrounded by their children

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"Australia!

If there's a finer place to raise livestock— I'd like to see it!"

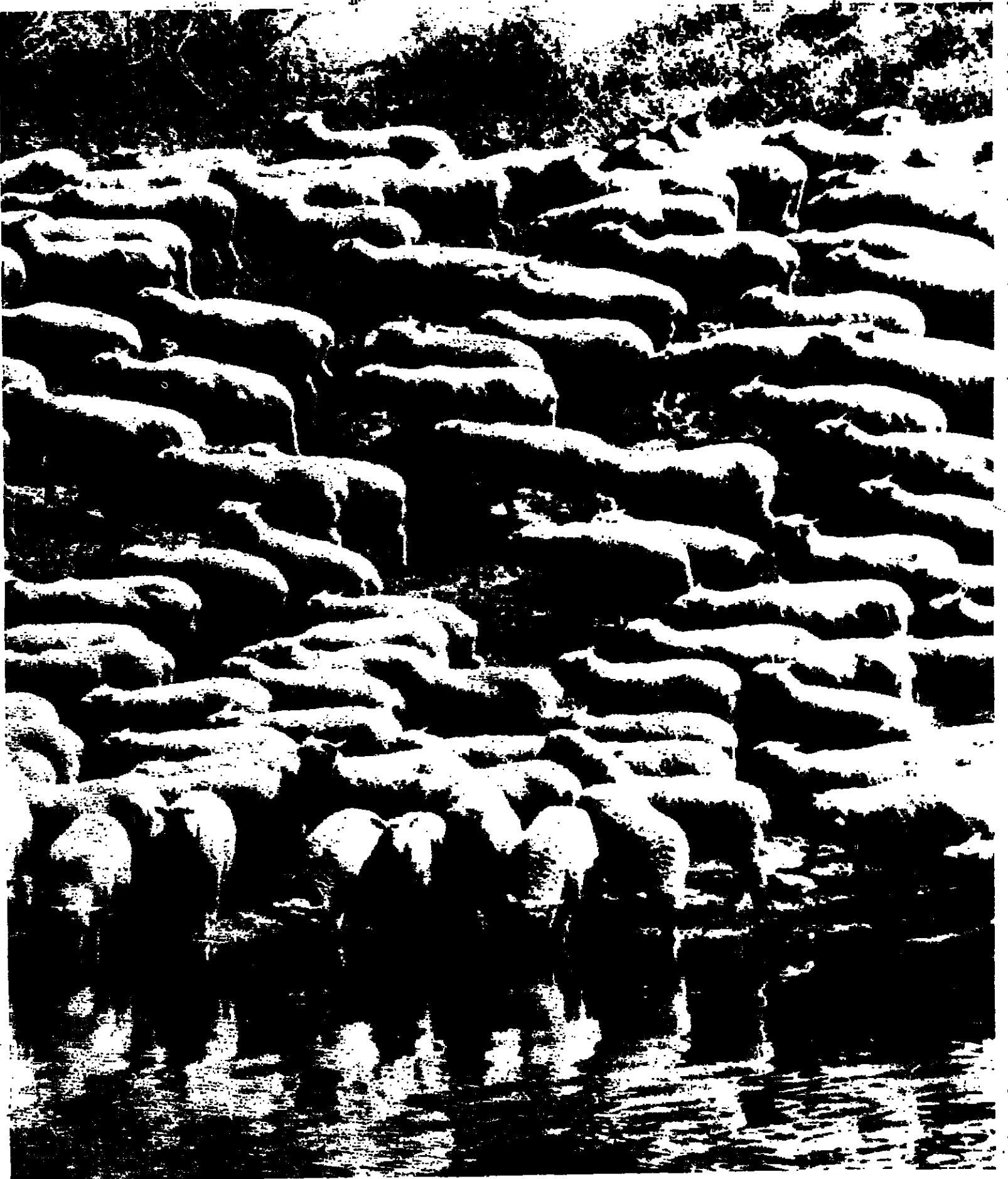
Ms. Tess Mallos
Food Authority, Australia

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Australian Meat & Livestock Corporation



Inter draws with Fiorentina

ROME (AP) — Sergio Battistini scored on a header with three minutes remaining Sunday, giving Fiorentina a 2-2 draw with Lazio in the Italian First Division.

Battistini twice gave Fiorentina the lead, the last time with six minutes remaining. But Lazio rallied both times, moving it into a tie for third place with Juventus, Sampdoria and Fiorentina with 2-1-1 record and five points.

Elsewhere, torrential rain at Genoa postponed the match between league leader AC Milan and Sampdoria. It was to be rescheduled for a later date.

In other games, Torino and Pescara drew 2-2; Juventus and As Roma drew 1-1; Atalanta beat Cagliari 2-1; Foggia beat Udinese 1-0; Ancona and Napoli drew 1-1; Parma beat Brescia 2-0; and Lazio and Genoa drew 1-1.

At Genoa, the rain not only saturated the field to prevent the opening kickoff, it also flooded the locker rooms.

At San Siro stadium in Milan, after a scoreless first half, Battistini gave Fiorentina its first lead in the 51st minute and kept it for nearly a half hour before Russian playmaker Igor Shalimov scored in the 80th minute.

Danish striker Brian Laudrup set up Battistini with a cross in the 84th minute, and the Argentine beat goalkeeper Walter Zenga with a diagonal shot for his fourth goal in as many games.

About 20 people were injured before game time when rival groups of fans rocks, cans and other debris and set a small car on fire outside Juventus' stadium. Two young Rome residents were hospitalized with bone fractures, the news agency ANSA said. The two were hurt when they fell trying to scale the stadium gates.

Juventus took the lead in the 16th minute when midfielder Andreas Moller scored off a pass from defender Moreno Torricelli. Rome tied it four minutes later when Brazilian defender Aldair headed in a corner.

Juventus manager Giovanni Trapattoni added strikers Pierluigi Casiraghi and Fabrizio Ravanelli to join national team striker Gianluca Vialli in the second half, but the trio still couldn't generate a second goal.

Roma had the best chance to break the deadlock in the 41st minute when reserve striker Roberto Muzzi broke 40 metres on his own, but tired and had his

shot cleared off the line. At Rome's Olympic stadium, Michele Padovano scored on a header with 11 minutes remaining to earn Genoa the draw. Lazio took the lead in the 58th minute on a header by defender Angelo Gregucci.

English midfielder Paul Gascoigne finally made his long-awaited debut for Lazio, and while playing decently, was clearly not fully fit and fell short of the fans' expectations.

Gascoigne, who had not played in a competitive game since tearing knee ligaments in the 1991 English FA Cup Final and transferring from Tottenham, was hit on the knee in the first half and did not start the second. Team doctors said he did not rejoin the game.

At Pescara, Michele Padovano scored two goals in four minutes, the second coming three minutes into injury time, rallying Pescara to the draw. Belgian striker Vincenzo Scifo and Brazilian Carlos Aguilera gave Torino a lead with goals in the 14th and 39th minutes.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

At Ancona, Hungarian striker Lajos Detari beat two defenders and shot diagonally in the 60th minute, giving Ancona the tie and its first point in the first division. Uruguayan striker Daniel Fonseca put Napoli ahead in the fifth minute.

At Parma, Marco Osio scored in the 24th minute and substitute Stefano Cugnoni added another in the 41st to lead Parma. Brescia was shutout for the third time this season, and suffered its first loss.

At Bergamo, Maurizio Ganz and Roberto Bordin scored 12 minutes apart to stake Atalanta to a 2-0 lead. Ganz scored in the 56th and Bordin in the 68th before Uruguayan striker Enzo Francescoli brought Cagliari within one in the 86th.

At Udinese, Romanian defender Dan Petrescu scored with three minutes remaining to lift Foggia to its first victory of the season. Despite the victory, Foggia remained in next-to-last place, just ahead of winless Ancona.

In Spanish soccer two-time defending league champion F.C. Barcelona smothered Burgos Sunday 4-1, keeping the European Cup champions in second place in the Spanish first division just a notch behind surprising league-leader Deportivo La

Coruna.

Barcelona raced off to a 3-0 lead in the early moments of the first half. Aitor Beguiristain scored in the 3rd minute, Danish forward Michael Laudrup made it 2-0 in the 12th minute, and Jose Maria Bakero pushed it to 3-0 with a goal in the 21st minute.

Burgos closed to 3-1 on a penalty by Romanian Gavril in the final minutes of the first half, but Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov made it 4-1 on a goal in the 53rd minute.

Stoichkov and Croat Davor Suker of Sevilla top the 20-team first division with five goals.

Deportivo La Coruna won 2-0 Saturday at Real Sociedad to become the only club in the First Division to claim victories each of its first four games this season. Barcelona has three victories and one draw.

Cadiz took a 1-0 lead in the 48th minute on a goal by Moises "artaga" Garcia, but Atletico Madrid tied the game in the 60th minute on a header by Manolo Sanchez off a corner kick from Paulo Futre. It was Sanchez's first goal of the season after leading the league last year with 27.

Atletico's Juan Francisco Rodriguez was expelled in the 77th minute with his second yellow card, but Cadiz failed to capitalize on the advantage.

Gregorio Fonseca put Espanol ahead in injury time in the first half, but Oviedo's Carlos Munoz tied the game 1-1 early in the second half. Croat Janko Jankovic gave Oviedo a lead 2-1 in the 55th minute, but Javier Escalch salvaged a tie for Espanol with an 85th-minute goal.

Celta defeated Athletic Bilbao 1-0 on a penalty late in the first half by Yugoslav Vladimir Gudeli.

Rayo Vallecano and Zaragoza played to a scoreless draw in Madrid.

Oscar Luis Celada and Ivan Iglesias Corteguer scored to give Sporting Gijon a 2-0 win over Tenerife.

In games Saturday: Real Madrid won at home over Albacete 3-0; Valencia played to a 2-2 draw at Osasuna; Deportivo La Coruna won at Real Sociedad 2-0; Sevilla won at home against Logrones 3-0.

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Prost to return to Williams-Renault team

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Ayrton Senna flew home to Brazil to consider his future Monday after a double disappointment at the Portuguese Grand Prix where he lost out both on and off the track.

Senna, world champion three times, finished third behind Nigel Mansell and his own McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger after being forced to make four pit-stops for tyres.

But he was more upset about Alain Prost's appointment as top Williams driver next season, and in an outburst which has rekindled the fierce animosity between them, he accused the Frenchman of being a coward.

He claimed Prost had vetoed both Mansell and himself from driving for world constructors' champions Williams next season in a move which could devalue the driver's championship.

Mansell, whose Portuguese victory was a record ninth this season, eclipsing Senna's previous mark of eight wins, has already quit Formula One to drive in the American Indy Car series after failing to negotiate a new contract with Williams.

Senna said: "I think if Prost, who is already a three-times

world champion, wants to be called the sole champion and maybe win another championship, he should be sporting.

"The way he is doing it, he is behaving like a coward."

"If he wants to be sporting, he must be prepared to race anybody, under any conditions, on equal terms. And now the way he wants to win championship, everything has been laid out to him before the start."

"It is like going for a 100 metres sprint and you are allowed to have running shoes — while everyone else has to use lead shoes. That is the way he wants to race. It is not racing. And it is bad for all of us."

The Williams, whose superiority over all other Formula One cars secured Mansell his first world title last month with four races left, are already favourites for next season.

Prost sat out this season after being sacked by Ferrari and failing to secure a drive in a competitive car. He is believed to have been forced on Williams by their French engine manufacturers Renault.

Senna accused Prost of bringing back the politics which marred their fierce battles for the

1989 and 1990 championships. "We had two fantastic World Championships last year and this year. And we had two very bad ones in 1989 and 1990," he said.

"They were a consequence of unbelievable politics going on and bad behaviour by some people. I think now we are coming back to the same situation again."

Prost, whose confirmation with Williams for 1993 was announced Sunday, contended himself by saying he regretted Senna's comments.

"We have had all this in the past. He wants to manipulate everyone and to have his own way. He has done it before and he now wants to do it again."

"I am sure now we will face each other on the track again next year and it will be very important for the international federation to be strong," said Prost.

But their confrontation may be delayed for a year.

It was being rumoured in Estoril that Senna would take a sabbatical rather than stay with McLaren next year. The team are to lose their Honda engines and may face a rebuilding year in 1993.

Confident U.S. team head for Davis Cup finals

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — The star-studded U.S. tennis team are convinced nothing can stop them winning this year's Davis Cup final in December after their decisive 4-1 semifinal victory over Sweden.

The American "dream team" of French and Australian Open champion Jim Courier, Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi, world number three Pete Sampras and Wimbledon doubles champion John McEnroe all oozed confidence as they looked ahead to a final showdown with Switzerland.

"We can beat them on any surface," said McEnroe, who teamed up with Sampras for the first time to post an exciting five-set win over the experienced doubles pairing of Edberg and Anders Jarryd which ensured an unbeatable 3-0 lead Saturday.

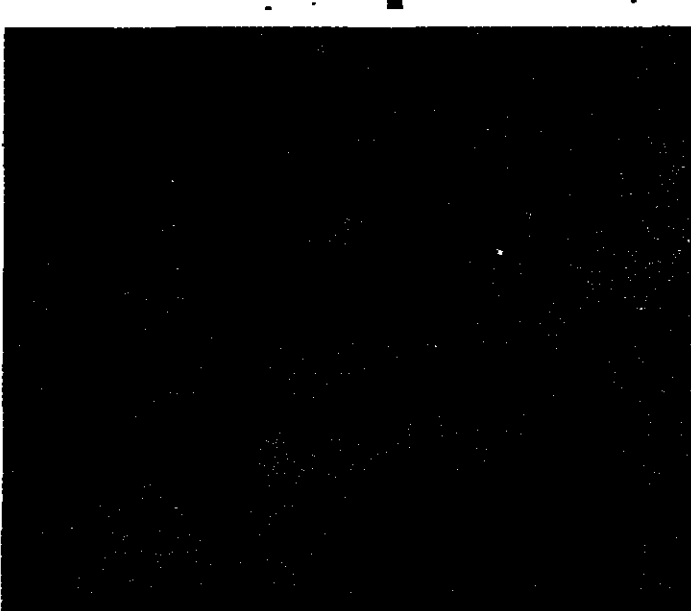
"This is the first time Switzerland have been in the finals and it will mean a lot to them but I suspect that we'll win 5-0," McEnroe added.

The U.S. squad certainly earned the respect of Edberg, who acknowledged Switzerland faced a daunting task in the final in Fort Worth, Texas.

"They have the best team on paper, there is no doubt about that," said the U.S. Open champion, narrowly defeated in the singles by Agassi and in the doubles by McEnroe and Sampras.

"It will be difficult for any team to beat them, but it is not an impossible mission," Edberg said.

Switzerland, surprise winners over cup holders France, defeated Brazil in the other semifinal



Andre Agassi

to reach their first Davis Cup final, compared with the Americans' 30th.

But they have not encountered any team with the firepower that the U.S. combination possess.

"There is a very, very strong possibility you will see the same four guys in the final," said U.S. captain Tom Gorman.

"This team is special. I can't imagine a better chemistry among better players," Gorman gushed as he contemplated his third successive trip to the finals in his seventh year as captain.

If one of Gorman's stars is forced to pull out before the final, he could call up U.S. open semi-finalist and former French Open

winner Michael Chang.

"What does that tell you about the strength of American tennis when the fourth-ranked player in the world is not selected for the team?" asked Gorman.

Agassi agreed. "Every match is in our favour. That's what having the best players in the world means," he said.

But Courier sounded one note of caution, admitting he had respect for Olympic champion Rosset who beat him in Barcelona. "Rosset seems to play a lot better for his country than he does for himself," said Courier, who began the American victory run by rallying from a set down to beat Nicklas Kulti Friday night.

Ba anchors African team to World Cup triumph

HAVANA (R) — Nigeria's Sunday Ba anchored the African men's 4x400 metres team to a triumphant victory Sunday as Africa won the Athletics World Cup for the first time.

A scorching second leg by Zambia's world 400 hurdles champion Samuel Matete gave the Africans a lead they were never to relinquish in the final event of the three-day eight-team competition.

Ba, who won the individual 400 Saturday evening, strode confidently down the final straight and waved the baton proudly in the air as he crossed the finish line.

The women's event went to the CIS, competing for the last time as a unified team but here, too, there was plenty to delight the Africans with a 10,000-3,000 double for Ethiopia's Olympic 10,000 champion Derartu Tulu.

Individual highlights Sunday included Tulu's win in the 3,000, another title for Czechoslovakia's Olympic javelin champion Jan Zelezny and a splendid exhibition of high hurdling by Britain's Colin Jackson.

Jackson, who finished only seventh in the Olympic final, clocked 13.07 seconds despite topping the final flight. He is the

only person to run faster this year.

But it was the 'Africans' performances on a warm, humid Caribbean evening which will linger in the memory.

Watched by Cuban President Fidel Castro, Ethiopia's world 10,000 silver medalist Fita Bayesa raced away with the men's 5,000.

Tulu was equally commanding in the women's 3,000 and the 4x4 relay team never looked like being beaten.

Cuba's Olympic champion Maritza Marten won the women's discus for the Americas with a throw of 69.30 metres.

Germany's Ilke Wyludda, second in last year's Tokyo World Championships, was second with 67.90.

Jearl Miles easily won the women's 400 metres for the United States in a time of 50.64 ahead of Canadian Charmaine Crooks running for the Americas.

Conditions were ideal for athletics in the final major meeting of the year with temperatures of 30 degrees Celsius.

Team captain Linford Christie kept the British in contention with second place in the 200 metres behind Robson Da Silva of the Americas.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

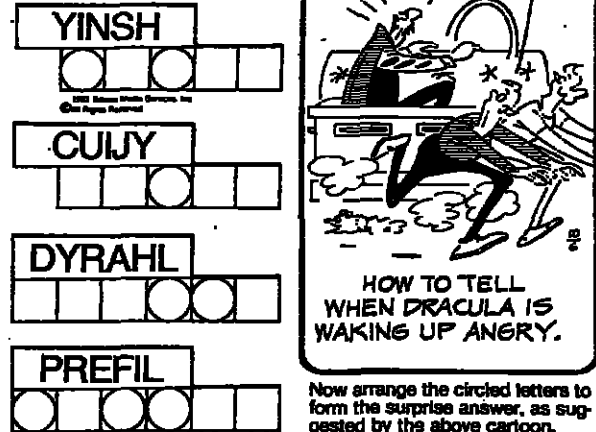
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Sure that guy has a happy marriage — he's always away from home promoting his book!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

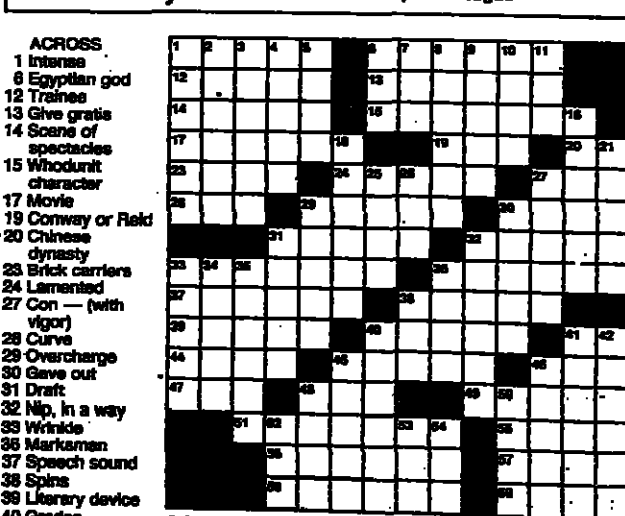
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: HE [] [] [] [] HIS [] [] [] []

Yesterday's Jumble: SHEEP CHICK NATURE AVENUE
Answer: What the doctor asked when the patient came in through the window — WHERE'S THE "PAIN"? (Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus



ACROSS
1. Egyptian god
12. Trains
13. Give gratis
14. Score of 100
15. Whodunit character
17. Movie
19. Conveyor or field
20. Chinese dynasty
23. Strict carriers
24. Lamented
27. Con — (with vigor)
28. Curve
29. Overcharge
30. Gave out
31. Draft
32. Nip, in a way
33. Wrinkle
36. Mariner
37. Speech sound
38. Spine
39. Literary device
40. Grades
41. Alphabet run
44. ex machine
45. Religious painting
46. Garage
47. Sch. subj.
48. Unhinged
49. Fizzle
51. Gate
55. Ustrov
56. Sound system
57. Broadside
58. Kind
59. Modern title

DOWN
1. Gargler of Paris
2. Object d'art
3. Overturn
4. Fork ends
5. Actor's desk
6. Army uniforms for short
7. Old Fr.
8. Conforming
9. REM word
10. Account entry
11. Champagne
16. Ancient land near the Aegean
18. Stress
21. Chronographer
22. — Dame
25. Swift current
26. Kind (eccentric quickly)
27. Losses rigidity
29. Lustrious
30. Turns in
31. Tribes
32. Tala — (eccentric quickly)
33. Words to the audience
34. Bridge expert
35. "Bright is —"
36. Hollow place
38. Charlotte — of TV
40. — to the Sea (Synge)
41. Baby's toy
42. Sheath
43. Extreme right
45. Father, in London
46. Iron or ship
48. Stale or stable
50. Church section
52. Intuitive letters
53. Old auto
54. Hair

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

FIFA official Neuberger dies

FRANKFURT (R) — German Hermann Neuberger, a vice-president of soccer's world governing body FIFA for the last 18 years and a leading figure in the organisation of the World Cup, died Sunday aged 72. The German Soccer Federation (DFB) said Neuberger, who was also president of the DFB, had been suffering from an incurable disease and died in hospital. Neuberger was the chief organiser of the 1974 World Cup, held in Germany, and headed the organising committees for the 1978, 1982, 1986 and 1990 events. He was also chairman of the committee for the next World Cup, in the United States in 1992. German World Cup captain Lothar Mathaus said: "German football has lost its most important man. He lived for the game and gave it everything."

Horse race scandal leads to two suicides

SEOUL (AP) — Two horse trainers killed themselves in three days after prosecutors began investigating their alleged roles in a major horse race fixing scandal, police said. Police said Lee Bong-Rai, 41, died Monday, apparently after jumping from the roof of an 11-storey apartment building. News reports said, however, that members of his family rejected the police account, arguing that he had left no suicide note and never had indicated an intention to commit suicide. Another trainer, Choi Jung-Hong, 51, killed himself last Saturday by slashing his wrists and hanging himself. A note left by Choi said he took his life to keep the scandal from further stirring social controversy. Prosecutors allege that horse trainers, jockeys and racing brokers have systematically conspired to fix races and tip off major gamblers in return for huge kickbacks. No figure has been given for the total amount of kickbacks involved, but payments amounted to 25,000 to 30,000 in each of several cases cited by prosecutors.

Australian wins Tour of Ireland

DUBLIN (AP) — Australian Phil Anderson won the five-day Tour of Ireland cycle race Sunday even though the final stage from Naas to Dublin went to Dutchman Louis De Koning. De Koning outsped countryman Adri Van Der Roel in the final circuit in central Dublin but Anderson knew by then the title was his. A breakaway group went clear with six laps left but none posed a threat to Anderson's overall lead. Mexican Raul Alcalá placed second overall, seven seconds behind the Australian, while Andrei Tchiril finished third.

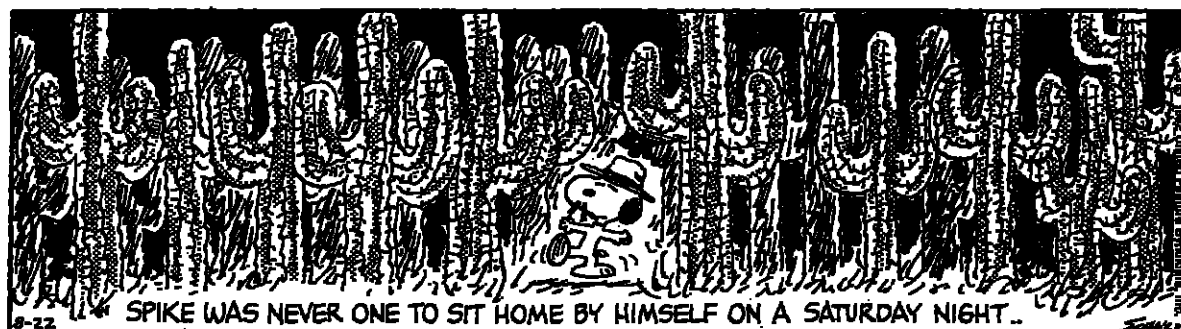
GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSCH
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠5 ♣A82 ♠104 ♠AKJ954
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠6 ♣J83 ♠K82 ♠KQ542
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠6 ♣883 ♠1084 ♠AKJ952
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you
- ♠Void ♠KQJ10982 ♠K1098
♠63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 3 ♠ ?
—Preemptive
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK573 ♣954 ♠AQ8 ♠KS
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ 3 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQJ10754 ♠K6 ♠KS ♠66
After two passes, what is your opening bid?

Peanuts



SPIKE WAS NEVER ONE TO SIT HOME BY HIMSELF ON A SATURDAY NIGHT.

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 28/9/92	TOKYO CLOSE 28/9/92
Sterling Pound	1.7125	1.7213
Deutsche Mark	1.4835	1.4725
Swiss Franc	1.2975	1.2823
French Franc	5.0124	4.9715**
Japanese Yen	120.92	119.65
European Currency Unit	1.3175	1.3225**

100 Per Cent
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Barocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.25	3.18	3.25	3.37
Sterling Pound	9.50	9.18	8.68	8.37
Deutsche Mark	8.62	8.08	8.62	8.50
Swiss Franc	6.75	6.68	6.68	6.56
French Franc	11.00	10.25	9.50	9.50
Japanese Yen	4.21	3.90	2.87	3.75
European Currency Unit	13.00	12.00	10.31	10.25

Interbank bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.70	6.60	Silver	3.82	.081

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.677	0.679
Sterling Pound	1.1625	1.1682
Deutsche Mark	0.4589	0.4612
Swiss Franc	0.5276	0.5302
French Franc	0.1359	0.1366
Japanese Yen	0.5653	0.5681
Dutch Guilder	0.4078	0.4098
Swedish Krona	0.1226	0.1232
Italian Lira	0.0547	0.0550
Belgian Franc	0.0227	0.0228

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7690	1.7790
Lebanese Lira	0.02555	0.02775
Saudi Riyal	0.1802	0.1815
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.2850
Qatari Riyal	0.1844	0.1854
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Rial	1.7260	1.7360
UAE Dirham	0.1834	0.1844
Greek Drachma	0.3585	0.3785
Cypriot Pound	1.5185	1.5385

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	26/9/92	Close	27/9/92	Close
All-Share	151.47		151.36	
Banking Sector	114.56		114.65	
Insurance Sector	154.71		155.02	
Industry Sector	109.33		108.72	
Services Sector	218.69		219.52	

December 31, 1990 = 100

India urged to speed up reform

BOMBAY (R) — India should speed up reforms to revive its ailing economy and counter the impact of a \$1.2 billion stock market scandal, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its annual report.

"A satisfactory and early restoration of fuller confidence in the functioning of banks and financial institutions is vital," the RBI, India's central bank, said in its report for 1991/92 ending March.

Uncovering the stock market scandal in late April had served to emphasize "the importance of hastening the pace of reform," said the report.

The slower-than-expected recovery from an economic crunch last year, when India's foreign exchange reserves dropped to cover only two weeks of imports and the country teetered on the edge of defaulting on its \$74 billion foreign debt, forced the RBI to scale back projected growth.

It said real gross domestic product (GDP) for 1992/93 would be 3.5 per cent, revised downwards from the four to 4.5 per cent forecast made in February.

The report said the economy, hurt by severe austerity measures following the impact of the Gulf war and the break-up of the Soviet Union, grew by under 2.0 per cent in real GDP terms in 1991/92.

India dealt with its severe bal-

ance of payments crisis last year by devaluing the rupee by 22 per cent against the dollar and introduced a series of major reforms to move away from the bureaucratic Indian-style socialism of the past four decades and towards a more market-oriented system.

"In the light of the radical reforms in trade and industrial policies, it is no doubt reasonable to expect a substantial rise in export growth," the report states.

It said industrial output, hurt by a sharp slowdown in demand and high interest rates, stagnated in 1991/92. The report forecast industrial growth would recover to around 4.0 to 5.0 per cent in 1992/93.

But a recovery to the industrial growth rates of around 8.0 per cent achieved in the 1980s could not be expected before 1993/94, it said.

Despite pressure from industrialists for cheaper credit, the central bank held out little prospect for a cut in interest rates until the risk of inflation rising again was brought under control.

Bulls are ending Pakistan stock slump

KARACHI (R) — The return of foreign investors and institutional buying sent Pakistan shares soaring 13 per cent last week in a leap analysts said signalled a turnaround for the moribund stock market.

"The share market is now poised to rise," said Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) President Arif Habib.

The KSE's 100-share price index, which hit a low of 1,110.78 on Sept. 17, jumped to 1,255.81 points in the trading week that ended Thursday.

Analysts said the main factors were institutional buying and renewed interest among foreign buyers, who apparently believe Pakistani stocks have bottomed out.

Foreign funds account for only about five per cent of turnover but have a powerful impact on local sentiment. "Some foreigners started buying and the locals jumped in," one analyst said.

Foreign buyers pumped \$200 million into Pakistani stocks in their first buying spree which started in June 1991, when restrictions on outside participation were lifted, Mr. Habib said.

He could not give a figure for the latest purchases.

Sigbatalah, deputy governor of the state (central) Bank of Pakistan, said foreign money was pouring in.

"The sharp rises are proof of investor interest," said broker Saad Maniar.

Stocks eased slightly on profit-

taking Sunday, declining 8.72 points to 1,247.09 a day before settlement day. Dealers said the market was likely to resume gains this week.

The reemergence of the bulls appears to have ended one of the market's longest bearish spells.

Dealers blamed the slump on political unrest, declining cotton yarn prices, a new tax on financial institutions, the recent floods and a liquidity crunch.

Market capitalisation fell 20.24 per cent to 174 billion rupees (\$6.96 billion) on Sept. 17, from 218.35 billion rupees (\$8.73 billion) on June 25.

The KSE index fell 28.7 per cent to 1,110.78 on Sept. 17 from 1,558.07 on June 25, the day the army began a crackdown on Karachi-based militants triggering nervousness over political stability.

Analyst Iqbal Ismail said the market would undergo some more corrections but was in a position to rise.

"A very large number of market participants have become convinced the market has bottomed out," Mr. Ismail said.

"This hysteria is quite likely to carry the index to around 1,400 in a very short period. That is a figure it can live with, while 1,100 is not," he said.

Stocks made their biggest gains this year last Tuesday when investors snapped up low-priced textile shares, pushing the index up 51.49 points. Rising cotton yarn prices after floods in cotton-growing Punjab province boosted interest in textiles.

Kuwait reopens stock exchange

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's stock exchange was open for business Monday for the first time since the Iraqi invasion, but there was no onslaught of buyers for shares.

Volume was well below what it was on Aug. 1, 1990, the day before Iraq invaded Kuwait and declared that the oil-rich emirate was an Iraqi province, exchange officials said.

The exchange reported 44 transactions in 2 1/2 hours of trading involving 875,000 shares and a turnover of \$47,890 (\$1.2 billion).

Only four of the exchange's 30 listed companies saw any trading, mostly at pre-invasion levels, and of those three declined while only one gained.

Before Iraqi troops stormed into the country, precipitating the Gulf war, officials said on average there were 80 to 100 transactions every day, representing a turnover of between 750,000 and one million dinars (\$2.6 to \$3.4 million).

"Volume has been very low. People selling now are those who are short of cash. Instead of selling now, some businessmen will wait and then take a profit," Hakeem Al Fulaiji, the bourse's trading supervisor, told Reuters on the exchange floor.

Some of the sellers had built businesses since Iraq's seventh-month occupation in 1990-91 and were selling shares to reinvest in their new businesses, brokers said.

Three were also indications of bargain hunting.

An investor offered 114 fil (there are 1,000 fil in a Kuwaiti dinar) for shares in the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East shares but found no sellers, Mr. Al Fulaiji said. The shares last traded at 295 fil.

Economists said investors were testing the market and may wait before buying stocks at low prices with the intention of selling them later at a profit.

One of the three listed bank stocks, the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), dropped by five "units" or 50 fil from 810 to 760 fil in early trading, bourse officials said.

The 50-fil loss was the bourse's limit for a drop in the value of this stock in a single

trading day 50 traders could only buy or sell the shares for 760 fil for the rest of the session. NBK's pre-invasion closing price was 980 fil.

NBK, the sole Kuwaiti commercial bank to far this year to announce a profit, was the most actively traded stock with 27 transactions involving 385,000 shares.

Burgan Bank, which had previously closed at 222 fil, ended at 156 fil, down from a starting price of 160. Seven transactions involving 160,000 shares took place.

One share tipped as a gainer actually lost ground. Mobile Telephone Systems Co., touted as a good buy because of the popularity of pagers and cellular phones in Kuwait, closed at 300 fil, or 15 below its opening.

A non-Kuwaiti stock, Bahrain International Bank, was the strongest performer Monday. It closed at 67 fil, up from 57 fil when last traded on July 28, 1990, Mr. Al Fulaiji said.

Trade and Industry minister Abdullah Hassan Jaralla told reporters that the reopening of the bourse "is an indication that we have full confidence in our economy."

But economists said the weak economy and poor company results were putting pressure on share prices.

They said they doubted the turnover would reach \$3.3 billion annually in the coming year because the economy is struggling to recover from the Iraqi occupation.

The emirate had to pay out about \$60 billion to cover allied war costs and compensate its own citizens for war losses.

Meanwhile Kuwaiti total crude output has reached 1.3 million barrels per day (b/d) and will stand at its pre-invasion OPEC quota level of 1.5 million b/d in December.

The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted Oil Minister Hamoud Al Rqobah as telling journalists after his return from this month's Geneva OPEC meeting that the production includes 200,000 b/d from the Neutral Zone shared with Saudi Arabia.

Tunisian bank losses blamed on computer

TUNIS (R) — A court in Tunisia is considering a unique defence, presented by a former bank president accused of fraud — that someone deliberately programmed his computer to black out foreign exchange deals that put his books in the red.

Tawfik Kalai and three of his staff are accused of deception and misappropriation of public funds at Banque Tuniso-Qatari d'Investissements (BTQI) between June and September last year.

The chief executive of a computer company and two of his engineers are charged with deception and conspiracy.

The case arises out of losses of \$42 million, currency dealings by BTQI, which is owned by the Tunisian and Qatari governments.

Mr. Kalai told the court last week he had not known any losses were being made because the head of his foreign exchange department had arranged for his computer to be programmed so he could not keep track of deals in progress.

"The computer on my desk screen only closed positions," Mr. Kalai told the court last week, referring to a foreign currency deal in which a purchase is matched by a sale or vice versa.

Mr. Kalai's version was contested by foreign exchange dealers and computer experts who

supplied the bank's computer programmes.

"I merely made an improved programme so he could see the closed positions quickly as he requested," computer engineer Miloud Ayadi told the court.

"But he could still see the current positions."

The chief of the foreign department, Jamaledine Touati, said Mr. Kalai had authorised him to deal in large sums to make up a loss from 1990.

"From May 1991 onwards, Kalai gave me the green light for currency speculation with large amounts, some as much as \$50 million and \$100 million," he said. "He wanted to make up for

the \$4 million loss registered in 1990."

Mr. Touati's deputy Moncef Deyssaid: "In any case, a profit and loss account was drawn up each week and signed by Kalai."

Unused to dealing with technological details, the court did not react when Mr. Ayadi offered to bring in the computer and programme to demonstrate his argument.

"The case is being followed closely in Tunisia by bankers anxious to see whether they can be held legally responsible for trading losses and by computer programmers wondering if they can be put on trial if their work is misused."

Dollar hits record yen low

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell to record lows against the yen Monday before making a slight recovery, while stock markets fell sharply, with London shares losing some of the gains made after Britain's exit from the EC currency grid.

Ireland raised its interest rates to defend the punt from the shockwaves still rocking European currency markets but Sweden cut its sky-high rates, saying the crisis was easing.

A meeting of European Community (EC) finance ministers in Brussels, called to prepare for an emergency summit, fuelled speculation that a two-speed route to economic and monetary union might emerge from the mayhem in the EC's exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

Danish Economy Minister

Anders Fogh Rasmussen said his country wanted to be part of a hard core of the ERM even if currency fluctuation bands were tightened.

In the meantime, the turbulence benefited holders of yen. "The yen is at the moment the alternative currency for people who want to diversify," said one trader. "There's much uncertainty in Europe and the U.S. economy is sputtering."

EC currencies traded more calmly Monday. The French franc, defended by an all-out

effort by the French and German central banks last week, was trading at 3.3721 per mark at around 1400 GMT, stronger than Friday's late 3.3820.

The dollar was trading at 119.65 yen, compared with 120.43 on Friday, and at 1.4535 marks from 1.4785.

In Tokyo it had earlier hit a record low of 119.00 yen. Economists blamed a lack of strength in the U.S. economy and Japanese investors' desire to reduce their exposure in foreign currencies for the fall.

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NEAR QUEEN ALYA FOUNDATION - TEL. 624698

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

SHARIHAN...IN LOVE & FEAR
(Arabic)
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

DEAD BANG
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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A quiet comedy for all members of the family (adults and kids). Prior reservation is needed.
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(Tan' Waqaymah)

AHLAN THEATRE Tel: 625155

Nabil & Hisham presents
The Political Satire Play
Welcome... New World Order
Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

Death toll soars in Tajikistan

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The mayor of a southern town in war-torn Tajikistan said Monday scores of people had been killed in fresh fighting, including the police chief and 13 policemen, Interfax News Agency said.

"The city is effectively empty," Interfax quoted Kurgan-Tyube Mayor Nurul Kurbanov as telling a news conference in the town, some 80 kilometres south of the capital Dushanbe.

"He said scores of people had been killed Sunday but the exact total was impossible to establish," the agency said.

The town is the focus of bitter fighting between opponents and supporters of ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev in which hundreds have died.

Mr. Kurbanov said the local police chief and 13 policemen were shot at point blank range. One of the fighting groups used tanks seized from a Russian army unit to fire on the town.

A Russian army spokesman said earlier that Russian troops had released 31 servicemen taken hostage by fighting armed groups in the Kurgan-Tyube region.

The rebels seized the servicemen in an apparent attempt to swap them for weapons and to prevent their possible intervention in clashes between local opponents of Mr. Nabiyev and his supporters, based in the neighbouring Kulyab region.

Russian troops have vowed to stay neutral.

But Mr. Kurbanov said they had helped one of the sides to gain the upper hand and said withdrawal of the Russian forces was the main precondition for solving the conflict.

He did not name the side he alleged the Russian troops were supporting but it seemed clear he was speaking about Mr. Nabiyev's supporters in Kulyab.

The Russian army spokesman said the Kulyab fighters were close to establishing control over Kurgan-Tyube.

Meanwhile, authorities imposed a 60-day state of emergency Sunday in an autonomous region of Russia where thousands of demonstrators demanding the release of a detained Muslim militant leader clashed with police, news reports said.

The Interfax News Service said at least 20 people were injured, and two of them suffered bullet wounds, in Sunday's confrontation in Nalchik, the capital of the southern Autonomous Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria bordering Georgia and about 1,450 kilometres southeast of Moscow.

Muslim militants from Kabardino-Balkaria and other regions of the Caucasus, united in the so-called Confederation of Caucasian Mountain People, have been assisting separatists from the Georgian region of Abkhazia.

The protesters in Nalchik demanded the release of the confederation's leader Moussa Shanibov, who was detained earlier this month for sending the militants to Abkhazia, and the resignation of Kabardino-Balkaria's President Valery Kokov, Interfax said.

On Saturday, they clashed with security guards at Nalchik's TV centre, leaving two demonstrators and one guard injured, it said.

Mr. Kokov imposed the state of emergency early Sunday, Interfax and ITAR-TASS News Agency said. But hours later, thousands of protesters clashed with riot police, and at least 20 were injured, according to a report from the opposition Kabardin People's Congress carried by Interfax.

Interfax quoted deputy Kabardin Parliament Speaker Mkhambir Ulyashov as confirming that there have been wounded in the clash and that the ongoing protest rally was of "unpeaceful nature."

The People's Congress said Mr. Kokov had agreed to fulfill the protesters' demands as soon as possible, including lifting the state of emergency and freeing Mr. Shanibov, Interfax reported.

Meanwhile, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze made an unplanned stopover in Moscow en route from New York to discuss the Abkhazian problem with Russian President Boris Yeltsin Monday, Interfax and ITAR-TASS said.

Georgia sent troops into Abkhazia, a rich resort area along the Black Sea, in mid-August to root out supporters of the ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. But Abkhazian leaders considered this an infringement on their proclaimed sovereignty and fought back.

The situation got more complicated with the arrival of the Caucasian volunteers who backed the Abkhazian minority against the Georgians.

Last Friday, the Russian legislature condemned the Georgian incursion and urged Yeltsin to suspend economic ties with Georgia.

Mr. Shevardnadze told ITAR-TASS that the legislative resolution was an "impudent and overtly aggressive action against a sovereign state," and that the future of the Georgian-Russian relations was at stake. "My task is to save these relations," he said.

In a separate development, Armenian and Azerbaijani forces in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh — a predominantly Armenian area within Azerbaijan — continued to ignore a ceasefire and battled for control of villages.

The ceasefire, set to take effect Friday, was the latest attempt to end the four-year war that has claimed more than 3,000 lives.

Interfax, quoting the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament Press Centre, said 20 Azerbaijani and three Armenian soldiers were killed in fighting Sunday for the village of Parukh in the Askeransky district.

Six Armenians were reportedly killed in overnight fighting in the village of Chaldran, controlled by Azerbaijani forces. The Armenians withdrew from Chaldran Sunday morning, leaving the Azerbaijanis in control of the road to the regional capital of Stepanakert.

Envoys in Belgrade to help peace process

BELGRADE (R) — International envoys Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen arrived in Belgrade Monday for talks intended to get the faltering peace process for Yugoslavia back on track.

But just before the Bosnian military command warned the people of Sarajevo to be ready for a new Serb offensive.

The command, representing the Muslim and Croat government forces defending the Bosnian capital, said Serb forces were concentrated to the south and west and were apparently poised for fresh assaults.

A statement from UNPROFOR (The United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia) said the U.N. envoy Mr. Vance and the European Community's Lord Owen, during meetings with Yugoslav and Serbian leaders, would follow up on agreements made during their last visit two weeks ago.

But more significant was its mention of the two envoys' visit to the north Bosnian town of Banja Luka last week, during which they were shocked by well-documented reports of atrocities by Bosnian Serb forces against civilians.

"The matter of increased combat air activity out of Banja Luka will also figure in the discussions," said the statement.

U.N. officials say Mr. Vance and Lord Owen see the air attacks as part of the "ethnic cleansing" campaign to oust minorities from Serb areas.

Besides hitting fleeing civilians and roads used for convoys, the planes are also thought to be destroying factories which employ a mainly Muslim workforce.

Unconfirmed reports say Jajce in western Bosnia has been their particular target in the past week and has suffered major damage.

Yugoslavia is still regarded in the West as the power behind the Bosnian Serbs, and Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, chairmen of the Geneva conference on Yugoslavia, are expected to tell the Belgrade leaders ethnic cleansing is unacceptable.

But a statement by the U.S. chief of staff cast doubt on what the envoys could use to back up their words.

General Colin Powell told the New York Times Monday he opposed any form of limited U.S. intervention in Bosnia — the prospect most feared by Serb fighters there.

The Serbs have in recent days hit back with counter-accusations of atrocities by the Muslims.

In the latest of these Sunday, the Bosnian Serb News Agency SRNA said 38 civilians had been killed and mutilated by "Muslim extremists" during fighting at Milici, northeast of Sarajevo.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, who arrived in Belgrade nearly two hours later than scheduled, made no statement on arrival but hurried off to begin talks.

They were due to meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslav Armed Forces Chief General Zivota Pantic and Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic, as well as U.N. and aid officials.

Environment Secretary Michael Howard, regarded as an opponent of closer European union, insisted "British interests" would be paramount in deciding the government's stance.

"If (other EC members) are going to take decisions affecting their relationship with each other which we don't judge are in the interests of the British people, then we won't join those arrangements," Mr. Howard told British television.

However, Agriculture Secretary John Gummer told BBC Radio: "There is no future for Britain in some sideline. We are in the centre of Europe and we intend to stay there."

The Daily Telegraph newspaper said Monday Mr. Major was prepared to stake his political future on seeking ratification of the treaty and would reassert his authority at the annual Conservative Party conference in a week's time.

But in a sign of growing dissent, 70 Conservative MPs have signed a motion calling for Britain to stay out of the ERM and a report in the Independent On Sunday newspaper said a third of Conservative MPs was threatening to oppose a vote on the treaty.

The apparent disarray in Britain on Maastricht following a "no" vote in a Danish referendum and a narrow "yes" in France appears to have stoked support in Germany for a two-speed Europe with countries in the fast-lane forging ahead with monetary union.

Mr. Major's Downing Street office denied the cabinet was split on Maastricht and on whether Britain should rejoin the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

Britain was forced to quit the ERM and permit a devaluation after a sustained attack on sterling by currency speculators, straining London's relationship with the rest of the EC and sinking the government's monetary strategy.

"Ministers use slightly different words but the policy remains the same," a Downing Street spokesman said. "If ministers dissent from government policy, they can resign — that is their choice."

But some ministers were sounding distinctly out of time with each other over Europe in comments to the media at the weekend.

South Africa frees ANC prisoners

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Three African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas convicted of killing whites during the apartheid era were freed Monday under a deal to get South Africa's democracy negotiations back on track.

Also released was neo-Nazi Barend Strydom, who gunned down eight blacks during a rampage in 1988 because he saw them as endangering the survival of the Afrikaner nation.

President F.W. de Klerk promised at a peace summit with ANC leader Nelson Mandela Saturday to release by Nov. 15 some 500 prisoners who had "committed a crime with a political motivation" before Oct. 8, 1990.

But plans to resume democracy negotiations hit another snag — Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthezi angrily told 30,000 mainly-Zulu followers that he would boycott the talks.

The leader of the IFP, the main black rival to the ANC, accused the government and the ANC Sunday of trying to settle the country's future between them.

Robert McBride, a 29-year-old mixed-race activist, was freed in Durban where he had been serving a life sentence for the 1986 killing of three white women with a car bomb at Mago's, a Durban seafood bar popular with soldiers and police.

Also freed were two black guerrillas, Mzondeleli Mondula and Nthetheli Mube, convicted of killing three white farmers with land mines in the mid-1980s in the northern Transvaal.

A smiling McBride, 32, said after his release he had no regrets for the landmine killings which he said he had done in good faith. But he added that a new South Africa should not be built on anger and bitterness, but on love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

White rightwingers gathered outside Pretoria's Central Prison for the release of Strydom, nicknamed the "white wolf" and in his mid-20s. But independent Radio 702 said he was smuggled quietly out of a side door.

Florida senator's wife wounded by gunfire

MAITLAND, Florida (AP) — A state senator's wife was wounded by gunfire at their home Sunday in what police believe was a politically motivated attack.

Judith Starks, the wife of Sen. Robert Starks, was hit in the calf by a bullet fired into the couple's bedroom at about 4 a.m., said sheriff's spokesman George Prochech. She was treated at a hospital and released. "We do not think this was just a random act of violence," said Mr. Prochech. "Our assumptions are at this point that it was some sort of politically motivated crime."

Mr. Starks was out of town at the time of the shooting, said he did not know who would want to threaten his family. Sen. Starks defeated two opponents for the Republican nomination for the Nov. 3 general election. Detectives do not have any evidence linking the shooting to Sen. Starks' campaign rivals, Mr. Prochech said.

Pumpkin outweights biggest sumo wrestler

TOKYO (R) — A pumpkin weighing more than the heaviest sumo wrestler has won first prize in the annual Japan Pumpkin Contest, organisers said. The 266.4 kg (586 lb 10 oz) pumpkin — three kg (6 lb 10 oz) heavier than Hawaiian-born sumo colossus Koshishiki — beat out some 170 rivals from 30 prefectures nationwide at the weekend contest on the western island of Shodo. "It was really huge," a spokeswoman for the organisers said. The winner, grown by Shinichi Suenaga on the northern island of Hokkaido, now enters the ring against its counterparts from the United States, Canada and Britain in next month's pre-Halloween world championship in San Francisco. The spokeswoman said Mr. Suenaga's giant gourd just failed to set a new Japanese record. Last year the contest winner scaled a monstrous 275.1 kg (605 lb 3 oz). The world record is 323.9 kg (712 lb 9 oz).

Geldof launches new TV career

LONDON (R) — Bob Geldof, the Irish singer who pioneered the concept of pop concerts for causes such as famine relief, took on a new role Monday as a celebrity interviewer for a British breakfast television programme.

Geldof, 37, has lined up an impressive list of interviewees for the early morning show, including South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's Yasser Arafat and the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. The Irish singer, whose records with the group the Boomtown Rats were hits in the early 1980s, became internationally known for organising a Band Aid fund-raising record for the Ethiopian famine and for his 1986 Live Aid pop concert in London. After that he turned to television, producing the "Big Breakfast" show for the independent Channel 4 station. His wife Paula is the main presenter. Geldof, who hates getting up in the mornings, is recording his interviews.

Democrats, Republicans court Perot

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush and challenger Bill Clinton are sending high-level aides to Dallas Monday for talks with backers of political maverick Ross Perot, who has hinted he may reenter the presidential race.

The envoys will meet key members of Mr. Perot's network of volunteers from 50 states.

The session underscores the depth of concern among both Republican and Democratic ranks about the potential impact Mr. Perot could have on the outcome of the Nov. 3 election.

Mr. Perot, a Dallas billionaire, dropped his undeclared independent presidential bid on July 16, recently, he said bowing out was a mistake and he would run if his supporters asked him to do so.

Each camp hopes to enlist his army of volunteers and, judging by all appearances, to convince Mr. Perot to stay out of the race.

Both camps looked set to claim his mantle on issues he has championed: Federal deficit reduction, boosting U.S. competitiveness and sparking the stalled economy.

Mr. Perot has been critical of both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton for failing to seriously address ways to cut the mushrooming federal deficit.

"We're going to send a team just to make a case for the agenda, I offer for America," Mr. Bush said Sunday in Grand Blanc, Michigan, ending a two-day tour of the central United States.

Peking, Seoul discuss Korean peninsula

PEKING (R) — Leaders of China and South Korea held a historic first meeting Monday, setting the seal on last month's agreement to establish diplomatic relations after four decades of hostility.

Chinese President Yang Shangkun and South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo held 105 minutes of talks which focused on relations and the situation on the divided Korean peninsula, spokesmen for the two countries said.

"Peace, stability and relaxation of the situation on the Korean peninsula is in the interests of all parties concerned in this region," Mr. Yang was quoted as saying by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin.

Mr. Roh's key mission here is to use China as a bridge to improve relations between South and North Korea. China fought alongside North Korea in the 1950-53 Korean War.

Mr. Yang called for the complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, according to Mr. Wu.

Mr. Roh expressed hope that China would play a positive role in removing a chief obstacle to reunification of the Korean, North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme, said South Korean spokesman Lee Jung-HA.

"We have always supported relaxation on the peninsula and contact and dialogue between the North and the South," Xinhua news agency quoted Mr. Yang as telling Mr. Roh.

"We also support the peaceful and independent reunification of the Korean and the Chinese government and people will work for peace and stability on the peninsula and in North East Asia."

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and South Korean counterpart Lee Sang-Ok attended the last 25 minutes of the talks.

Washington

Perot

Clinton

Bush

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200 held in U.S.-Italian drug swoop

ROME (R) — Italian and U.S. police said Monday they had broken up one of the world's largest cocaine smuggling and money-laundering operations in a four-nation swoop in which more than 200 suspects were arrested. Police officials told a news conference that two of those arrested in Italy were top members of Colombia's drug smuggling cartels. Officials said the police operation, codenamed "Green Ice," was still in progress. They said there had been 167 arrests in the United States, 34 in Italy and two in Costa Rica. Italian officials said police in the United States had arrested a senior executive of Colombia's National Bank on suspicion of money-laundering. They said it was the most significant operation of its kind in years. The smuggling ring had close links with the three main branches of organised crime in Italy — the Sicilian mafia, the Naples-based Camorra and the 'Ndrangheta, which operates in Calabria.

Scandal-tainted Japan politician fined

TOKYO (R) — Japanese prosecutors said Monday that Japan's most powerful politician will be fined but not face a humiliating trial for taking 500 million yen (\$4 million) in illegal contributions from a trucking firm. Senior prosecutors meeting in Tokyo agreed to serve Shin Kanemaru with a summary indictment for breaking the Political Funds Control Law that would require him to pay a fine of just 200,000 yen (\$1,600). Deputy Chief Prosecutor Takeo Takahashi said. The 78-year-old "kingmaker" of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), who has publicly admitted taking the funds from the Sagawa Kyubin trucking firm, would be the first politician to be convicted under the law. Although the penalty is small, conviction for a criminal offence carries a stigma which could curb Mr. Kanemaru's immense behind-the-scenes political influence. As head of the largest faction of LDP legislators, 110 strong, the old man for years has been able to pick prime ministers, make cabinets and sway policies.

Sikhs blast bus, killing 5, in Punjab

AMRITSAR (AP) — Sikh militants set off a time bomb in a crowded passenger bus in Punjab state Monday, killing five people and injuring 55, police said. The blast ripped the bus in two, set it on fire, and hurled passengers out onto the road near Pathankot, 106 kilometres (65 miles) north of Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikhs, said Sumant Kumar Goel, a senior police officer. Mr. Goel said the bomb, hidden in a suitcase, went off when the bus pulled out of the Pathankot Bus Station. Mr. Goel said 55 passengers were hospitalised, 15 of them with serious burns.

Bonn pulls out of V2 ceremony

BONN (R) — A senior German government official Monday withdrew his backing of an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first launch of Hitler's V2 rocket after damning criticism at home and in Britain. An Economics Ministry spokesman said Erich Riedl, a state secretary in the ministry who was supposed to lead the commemoration official status, cancelled his participation because he was unable to clarify misconceptions about the event. Mr. Riedl caved in after German government and opposition politicians added critical voices to British protests against the Oct. 3 event at the former launch site of Peenemünde. Earlier Monday, Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann urged Mr. Riedl to stop backing the event, saying he had not been notified about his state secretary's plans to deliver the keynote speech in Peenemünde.

13 remain missing from storms in France

PARIS (AP) — Thirteen people remained missing Monday from storms that battered France last week and over the weekend, killing at least 41 people. Authorities lowered the number of people missing from last Tuesday's torrential rains in southeastern France from 15 to 11. Two others were missing after a storm ravaged parts of southern France Saturday. Saturday's deluge, in the Auvergne and Pyrenees-Orientales regions of southern France near the Spanish border, left three dead and at least two missing, rescue authorities said. In Auvergne, the Sals River, normally a 20-centimetre (eight-inch)-deep trout stream, Saturday became a destructive torrent eight metres (26 feet) deep. In Thessa the Rear River carried off camper Christine Lassagne, 44, under the eyes of her husband who was unable to help.

Pakistan plane crashes in Nepal; 167 killed

KATHMANDU (R) — Nearly 170 people were killed when a Pakistani airlines (PIA) plane crashed while approaching Nepal's peak-enriched Kathmandu Airport Monday, state-run Radio Nepal said.

The radio and a PIA spokesman in Karachi where the flight originated said the plane was carrying 167 people — 155 passengers and 12 crew.

There were no survivors in what was the second crash of an Airbus at the airport in less than two months, the radio said.

On July 31, a Thai Airways A310-300 slammed into a Himalayan ridge north of Kathmandu and exploded. All 113 people aboard were killed instantly.

One PIA source said only about a dozen of the passengers on flight PK268, an Airbus 300, were Pakistani and the rest were foreigners.

Most were Nepalese returning home from the Middle East for the Dasain Festival, a major Hindu celebration, an official of the Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC) said. The RNAC handles PIA flights into Nepal. PIA officials in Kathmandu said there were only 156 people on board.

The plane crashed about eight nautical miles from the airport in hills on the southern side of the saucer-shaped Kathmandu Valley, RNAC officials said.

They said radio contact with the plane was lost at about 2 a.m. (0845 GMT), just before it was due to land.

Other officials at the airport said it was raining at the spot where the wreckage was sighted and that helicopters were unable to fly there. Rescue teams had been sent overland, they said.

There was no word on the cause of the crash, but airport sources said the plane was flying some 1,500 feet (450 metres) lower than the prescribed altitude.

They said the aircraft was at 6,500 feet (2,285 metres) compared to the routine 9,000 feet (2,740 metres).

"Visibility was not particularly good at the time," one source said.

Kathmandu Airport is considered tricky by pilots, who have to spiral down to the runway to avoid the surrounding Himalayan Mountains. The airport has no radar and planes are guided in by beacon.

Pakistan

Nepal

167 killed

Kathmandu

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

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